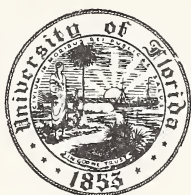



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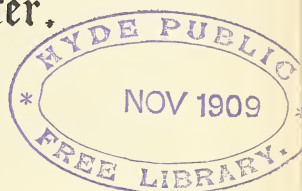
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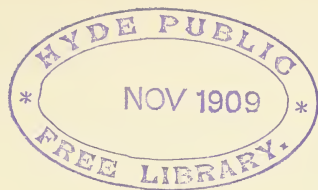
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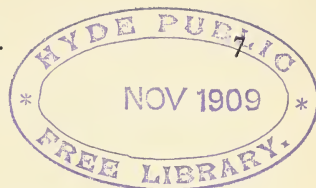
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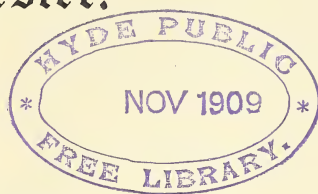
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TRACTS

RELATING TO THE

Civil War in Cheshire

1641—1659;

INCLUDING

SIR GEORGE BOOTH'S RISING IN THAT COUNTY.

EDITED BY

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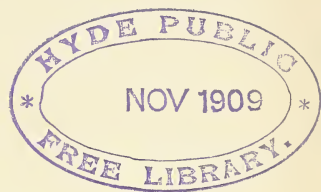
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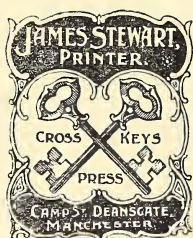
"NOTES ON THE CHURCHES OF CHESHIRE."



MANCHESTER:

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

1909.



P R E F A C E .

“TRACTS RELATING TO MILITARY PROCEEDINGS IN LANCASHIRE DURING THE GREAT CIVIL WAR” is the title of the second volume, published by the Chetham Society in 1844, consisting of Tracts and other contemporary documents relating to military proceedings in Lancashire during the great Civil War, edited by George Ormerod, D.C.L., F.R.S., S.F.A., F.G.S., author of the History of Cheshire. No records of the Civil War in Cheshire have been published by the Society. The Council felt that this omission ought to be removed, and they asked the Rev. J. A. Atkinson, Honorary Canon of Manchester, to undertake the work of editing such a volume—he having been the editor of a previous volume on Cheshire, issued in 1894, “Sir Stephen Glynne’s Notes on the Churches of Cheshire.”

So much has been written and printed since 1844 on the Civil War, that the Editor has not thought it necessary to include a sketch of the transactions in Cheshire. His idea has rather been to select a certain number of Tracts which were published at the time the momentous events occurred—in order that readers might have the very words in which the military operations were described by those who witnessed them, and from the ordinances

and declarations of Parliament might learn how affairs were carried on by the Lords and Commons at that period.

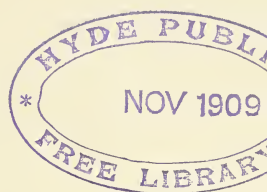
A reference to the List of Tracts will shew the matters dealt with in each Tract, and the Index of persons, places and subjects (though brief), will enable readers to find information under those heads.

The Editor has purposely excluded sermons and controversial documents which abound, and which are not always edifying. Notwithstanding the exclusion of these, he hopes the volume will prove of interest to those connected with the County Palatine of Cheshire.

He desires to express his thanks to the Librarians with whom he has communicated, to Mr. G. F. Barwick, of the British Museum, and above all to Mr. C. W. Sutton, of the Manchester Reference Library, with whom he has all along taken counsel, who has kindly gone over all the proofs, and has assisted him by many invaluable suggestions.

THE CATHEDRAL, MANCHESTER,

AUGUST, 1909.



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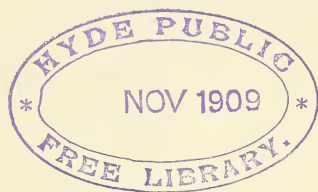
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relating to Cheshire during the Civil War,

1641—1659.

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| 1641. Thomas Cooper.
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Hugh Leigh. | 1646. William Edwards.
John Wynne.
Richard Sproson. |
| 1642. William Ince.
William Crompton.
John Johnson. | 1647. Robert Wright died—
Edw. Bradshaw served
out year.
William Wright.
Richard Minshall. |
| 1643. Randle Holme, Jun.
William Whittell.
William Bennett. | 1648. Richard Bradshaw.
Jonathan Ridge.
Gerrard Johnes. |
| 1644. Charles Walley.
Humphrey Philips.
Rafe Davis died—
Randolph Richardson
succeeded. | 1649. William Crompton.
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this year. | 1659. John Johnson.
Thomas Wilcock.
John Knowles. |

I.

The true Relation of a Bloody Conspiracy by the Papists in Cheshire. Intended for the destruction of the whole Countrey. Invented by the trecherous Lord Chomes and Henry Starkey his Steward. Also the Relation of a bloody Skirmish betweene the Traine Band of Chester and the Conspirators, with the number of those that were slaine. Likewise the Confession of the said Henry Starkey being grievously wounded in the said skirmish.

London. Printed for John Greensmith. 1641.

A Bloody Conspiracy of the Papists in Cheshire, intended for the destruction of the whole Country.

Alas poore England, how doe thy enemies the bloody Romish Catholiques plot thy downfall, how art thou beset with griefe and sorrow round about.

But shall the Philistins prevaile against Israel for ever? shall their Goliath still defie the hoast of God? No no, but Israel trust in the mighty Jehovah, and pray to him, and he will send a David from the sheep-fold to cut off the insulting uncircumcised Goliath's head, the wicked shall not be able to withstand the righteous, but shall fall as the corne before the Reaper, wherefore England still serve the Creator God of Heaven, and he will, as he hath done hitherto defend thee and discover all the wicked designes of these Trecherous enemies, for God doth daily bring them to light, as you shall now perceive by the plot lately discovered in Cheshire.

There was an order made by the High Court of Parliament, that all Papists throughout England should be disarmed, which command the primate Officers in Cheshire went about to obey, but the Papists there were so resolute that they told them plainly they would not be disarmed, which answer being carried to the Major of the City, he very wisely commanded the Trayned

Bands to goe search, each one charging his Musket with a Bullet, and those Papists which would not yeeld to have their houses searched, presently to shoot downe their house about their eares, which was to be done the next day being the 20 day of November 1641, which the Papists having intelligence of, gathered themselves altogether to my Lord Chomes his house, the chiefe Leader was one Mr. Henry Starkey, and in the night time some of them having Armor on, the watch heard them to make a very great noise without the City gates, and going, to see what might be the cause thereof, they discovered fifteene in Armes, battering downe the City Walles, at which the watch were very much amazed, and being for the most part old men, to goe to resist them they were fearefull, but went into the City gate againe and cryed out Treason, Treason, against the City, upon which the Citizens presently did arise, the Trayned Bands presently were in readinesse, but thirteene of the Traytors escaped away, but two of them were taken, who confesse that the others were runne to the Lord Chomes his house, who were presently pursued thither, and taken at the Lord Chomes his house gate, for the Porter thereof and the guard thinking them to be some of the Trayne Band would not suffer them to enter in thither, away they were carryed to prison, a strong Guard being left at the Lord Chomes his house, that none of the Papists might issue out there.

So soone as those fifteene were layd fast, the Trayne Bands came to the aforesayd Lord Chomes his house, and commanded the doore to be opened, but they were denyed to have any entrance.

Then ten of the Trayne Band discharged their Muskets and battered downe part of the house, at which the aforesaid Lord made an escape by a posterne doore which opens into the fields, the Trayne Band most of them went into the house and searched it, wherein they were like all to have beene slaine, for comming onto a private Wood-house there stood 50 Papists with Muskets ready charged, and so soon as they saw the Trayne Band they

discharged altogether, and slew 25 of the Protestants, and then retreated back and runne out of a back doore which led into the Wood-house, but being met by the rest of the Trayne Band which were without, betweene whom grew a bloody skirmish, but at length the Papists trusted to the swiftnesse of their feet, but the bullets made great hast after them, and slew nineteene of them, Starky their leader was wounded in the thigh which forced him to yeeld, and was presently committed to prison. A great uproare there was in the City, & much lamentation of both sides for the losse of their husbands which were trayterously slaine in the aforesaid Wood-house, all being still the aforesaid Starkey the Leader of the Rebels was examined being ready to depart the world by reason of the multitude of his wounds. Who confessed what their intents were, being urged thereunto by the Lord Chomes to have beate downe privatly the greatest part of the City walles, and before they could be possibly builded againe the Papists in Lancashire and Cheshire should have an advantage to use the Protestants as they pleas'd themselves, which would have been welcome Newes to the Rebels in Ireland, much more he did not confesse but dyed, and he together with the other nineteene Rebels which were slaine, running away, were buried in the high-way together, but the Protestants in severall Churches; those Rebels which were taken awaite the Parliaments pleasure for their judgement, which will be very speedily.

II.

A Declaration of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliamt. Concerning the late treaty of Peace in Cheshire. Wherein they renounce the said agreement, as being very preiudiciall and dangerous to the whole Kingdom, that any one County should stand as Newter, and withdraw themselves from the assistance of the rest.

Sabbath, 7. Jan. 1642.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament that this Declaration shall be forthwith printed and published, and read in all Parish Churches and Chappels in the County of Cheshire, by the Parsons, Vicars, or Curates of the same.
John Browne, Cler. Parl.

Jan. 9. Printed for I. Wright in the Old-Bailey. 1642.

A Declaration of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

Upon perusall of certaine Articles, dated the 23 of Decemb, 1642, Betweene some of the Deputie Lieutenants of the Countie of Chester, well-affected to the Peace of the Kingdome, and others, who have declared themselves in sundry actions, Opposers of the proceedings of Parliament, and furtherers of the War raysed against them, and of many Injuries and Oppressions lately exercised upon the good Subjects, Inhabitants of that Countie; And being confident that if the said Deputie Lieutenants, who were parties to that Agreement, have knowne by what acts and designes this Agreement was Plotted by the other side, and how dangerous and mischievous it must needs be, both in the effect and in the Consequence; their good Intentions to the Peace of that County, and of the Kingdome are such, that they would never have consented to any thing so prejudiciall thereunto, as the seeming Neutralitie would be, by making that County prepared by this meanes, to prevent all Associations and mutual reliefe to Lancashire, and other Neighbour Counties, and to hinder the firme settling of that Countie for Parliament, and many other wayes serviceable to those ill Councells, whereby his Majesty is incyted against his Subjects; But no way useful to the Parliament in protecting of them; Wherefore the Lords and Commons doe Declare;

1. First, That none of the parties to that Agreement, had any authority by any act of theirs, to bind that Countie to any such Neutrality, as is mentioned in that Agreement, it being a

peculiar and proper power and privilege of Parliament, where the whole body of the Kingdome is represented, to bind all, or any part thereof.

2. That it is very preiudiciall and dangerous to the whole Kingdome, that any County should withdraw themselves from the assistance of the rest, to which they are bound by Law, and by severall Orders and Declarations of Parliament.

3. That it is very derogatory to the power and authority of Parliament, that any private men should take upon them to suspend the execution of the Ordinance of Militia ; and of Associations, declared by both Houses to be according to Law, and very necessary at this time, for the preservation and safetie of this Kingdome ; or to hinder the Fruit and benefit of any other Ordinance of Parliament, lately made in the behalfe of that Countie.

4. That many things in that Agreement are very unequall, contrary to the nature of a Neutralitie, (being much more advantageous to the one side, then to the other, and preiudiciall to the publike defence of the Kingdome) undertaken by the Parliament, and would be a great impediment to that good Agreement betwixt his Maiesty, and his Subjects, which both Houses doe earnestly desire and endeavour.

For this, and other reasons, wee hold our selves bound in conscience in performance of the severall Protestations that we have made to hinder all further proceedings upon that agreement. And therefore it is Ordered by the Lords and Commons, that no such Neutrality be observed in that County, which will secretly advantage the Forces raised there, and in the neighbour Counties against the Parliament, and no way benefit Cheshire, but rather be most dangerous to them, by keeping that County without any defensive Forces : Whereby it will be open to the King, to bring back his army thither at his pleasure ; By which meanes it will become the State of the Wars, and if this should not fall out, yet if the rest of the Kingdome be suppressed, what hopes can Cheshire have, but to be Involved in the publike

misery ; And therefore in wisdom for themselves, and Justice to the State, they ought not to withdraw themselves from the common cause ; But to joyne with the Parliament in defence of the Religion, and Liberty of the whole Kingdome, and with them to labour by all good meanes to procure a Generall Peace, and protection from the King, for all his Subjects ; & if they should suffer any particular Counties to divide themselves from the rest of the Kingdome, it will be a meanes of bringing all to Ruine and Destruction ; Wherefore it is further Declared, That neither the Gentlemen, who were parties to those Articles, nor any other Gentlemen, nor Inhabitants in that County, are bound by any such Agreement ; But they are required to pursue their former Resolutions, of maintaining and assisting the Parliament in defence of the Common Cause, according to their generall Protestation, wherein they are bound with the rest of the Kingdome ; And according to such Orders, and Commissions, as they, or any of them have already received, or shall receive from both Houses of Parliament ; From the Committee of Lords and Commons appoynted for the safetie of the Kingdome, or from the Earle of Essex Lord Generall.

III.

Instructions agreed upon by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, for Sir William Brereton, Baronet, one of the Members of the House of Commons, and for Sir George Booth, Knight and Baronet, and the rest of the Deputie Lieutenants of the Citie and Countie of Chester.

Die Lunae. Januarii 9, 1642.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, that these Instructions shall be forthwith printed and published. John Browne, Cleric. Parliament.

London. Printed for *John Wright*, and are to be sold at his shop in the Old-Baily, Jan. 11, 1642.

Instructions agreed upon by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, for the Deputy Lieutenants of the County of Chester.

Whereas it doth appeare, to the Lords and Commons now assembled in Parliament, that the King seduced by wicked Councell, hath raised War against the Parliament and other his good Subjects, and hath drawn together great store of Papists, and ill affected persons, and sent out Commissions, for the levying of others, to the great hazard of Religion, and the publike peace of the Kingdome.

1. You the said Deputy Lieutenants, shall take special care therefore that the Ordinance concerning the Militia, from time to time, be put in execution, through the said Countie, as you shall see cause : And for that purpose, you or any two or more of you shall have power and authority, to Arme, Train, and put in readinesse, all and every the Inhabitants of that County, fit for the War, as well Trained band, as other Voluntiers, both Horse and Foote, and them, under the Command of such Collonels, Lieutenant Collonells, Serjeant Majors, Captaines, and other Officers, as the Lieutenant of the said Countie, or you or any three or more of you, shall in his absence nominate and appoint, to leade and conduct, as well against all Forraigne Forces, that shall in hostile manner invade the said Countie, as for resisting and opposing of all other Forces, which shall be either within the said Countie, or elsewhere, raised to the disturbance of the peace of that Countie, or which shall stand in opposition to the Orders, Commands, and Ordinances of both Houses of Parliament ; and the Sheriffes and all other Officers and Subjects of the said County, are hereby injoynd to assist you and every of you therein ; and if any person whatsoever shall leavy or endeavour to leavy or billet, any Souldiers, or to raise, draw or keepe together, the Trained Bands or other Armed Forces of the said Countie or any other Forces, by colour or pretence of any Commission or Warrant from His Majesty, under the great Seale or otherwise without Order or consent of both Houses of Parliament : You are to make knowne to the

Trained Bands or other inhabitants of the said County ; that those who shall appeare upon any such Warrant, or obey any such Commission, shall be held disturbers of, and enemies to the publique peace : and those who shall not appeare upon any such Warrant and Commission, nor do any thing in execution thereof, but shall conforme and submit to the Ordinance of the Militia, shall be protected by both Houses of Parliament.

And you the said Deputy Lieutenants or any two or more of you, shall in the name and by the authority of both Houses of Parliament, require and command all persons, to forbear the execution of such Commission or Warrant and to cause the same to be delivered up to you, or any of you, to be sent to the Parliament. And you the said Deputy Lieutenants, or any two or more of you, are hereby required, to draw together, such of the Trained Bands, and other forces of the said County, as shall be expedient for the suppressing of all such Assemblies, and for the apprehending and imprissoning of all or any such person or persons, as shall after admonition and command, by you or any of you made unto them, to forbear the execution of any such Commission or Warrant, or the calling or gathering or keeping together of any such Forces or Assemblies, still persist in doing the same ; and likewise such as shall beare Armes, by colour of any Warrant or Commission from his Majesty, under the great Seale or otherwise, without order or consent of both Houses of Parliament. And also such disaffected persons, as shall be found raising any parties or factions against the Parliament ; or casting any reproaches or aspersions against them or their proceedings, to be sent up to the Parliament, to answer such their offences as to Law and justice shall appertaine.

2. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you, shall stay, search and examine, or cause to be stayed, searched and examined all suspicious persons and caryages and shall search or cause to be searched, all suspicious places and to seize upon all Horses, Armes and Amunition, Money, Plate or other provisions whatsoever, which you or any

one or more of you, shall have just cause to suspect, is, or are raised, or provided for the fomenting or maintaining Warre gainst the Parliament and the Kingdome.

3. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants or any one or more of you shall oppose and suppress all Rebellion and commotion whatsoever within the said Countie of Chester or in any other Counties in association with the said Countie of Chester.

4. You the Deputy Lieutenants or any one or more of you, shall conduct and leade all such forces of Horse and Foote, as shall be raised within the said Countie of Chester, by Authority of both Houses of Parliament for the service of the Parliament and Kingdome.

And you the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants and every one of you, shall fight with, kill and slay, all such as shall by force oppose you, or any of you, in the execution of this or any other Order or Ordinance of both Houses of Parliament, and all other their assistants, ayders and abettors: and you or any one or more of you, shall leavy such other forces of Horse and foote as (his Excellency) the Earl of Essex shall by his Commission give you power to leavie, under such Collonels Commanders and other Officers as shall be by him appointed or directed: And you shall pursue the said Traitors and Rebels and their adherents, in the said County of Chester, or in any other places, or Counties of the Kingdome into which they shall retire themselves. And you shall defend and protect his Majesties good Subjects from violence and opresion, by the illegall Commission of Array, or otherwise: And you shall hinder and forbid, the execution of that illegall Commission; and in all places, to the utmost of your power and endeavour, to restore and preserve the peace of the Kingdom.

5. You the said Deputie Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you shall take from the said Rebels and Traytors, and their adherents, all such Armes, Ordinance, and Amunition and goods, as they have taken from any of his Majesties

Subjects, and restore the same to the Owners: And, if any of those Armes, Ordinance, Amunition or other goods so taken be wasted, spent, consumed or so concealed from you, that you cannot come to the same, then you or any one of you, shall in liew thereof cause due recompence to be made to the parties grieved, out of, and with the offenders goods.

6. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you, shall take care, that such Resolutions and Orders of both Houses as have bin or shall be made and delivered or sent down to you, or any of you be put in execution, and shall require the Sheriffes and Justices of the Peace, and all other his Majesties Officers and Subjects of the said County, to be ayding and assisting unto you, and every of you, for that purpose: And if any of them shall refuse, or forbear to be ayding and assisting to you therein, you or any one or more of you, shall them apprehend and imprison, and send up to the Parliament, or otherwise dispose of them, for further punishment, as to justice shall appertaine.

7. You the said Deputy Lieutenants shall likewise declare unto all men, That it hath ever been and still shall be the care and endeavours of the Parliament, to provide for his Majesties safety; and that they do not, nor never did know, of any evill intended towards his Majesties Person, which might move him to require any Army or extraordinary guard: That his greatest safety is in the affection and fidelities of his Subjects, and in the advice and councill of his Parliament; and his greatest danger in withdrawing himselfe from them and joyning himselfe to such disaffected and malignant persons, obnoxious to Justice for their great enormities, who under colour of doing him service, have raised forces which they labour to increase, to the hazard of ruining Religion and the whole Kingdome.

8. And you the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you shall in the name of the Lords and Commons, publish, or cause to be published throughout the said County, the Declarations already commanded or hereafter to be

commanded to be published by both Houses of Parliament, and you and every of you shall endeavour to cleare the proceedings of the Parliament, from imputations and aspersions, and shall from time to time certifie the Speaker of the House of Commons of all things which you conceive necessary for the present service; and that a speedy accompt thereof may be made, and that the directions of the Lords and Commons to you as well as your Advertisements to them, may have a cleare and speedy passage, you and every of you, shall lay a strict charge upon all Post-masters, Messengers and others, that they do not suffer any Letters or other dispatches to or from the Parliament, or any other imployed in their service, to be intercepted or stayed: And if any shall presume to make stay of such dispatches, you, and every of you, shall direct the Post-masters to repaire to the Justices of the Peace, Constables, and other Officers for their ayd and assistance, who are hereby required to take speciall care that there be no such Interruption.

9. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any two or more of you, are hereby Authorized and required, forthwith to disarme all Popish Recusants, and other dangerous and ill affected persons as well Cleargy men as others, as have testified or shall testifie their ill dispositions to the peace of the Kingdome and proceedings of Parliament: and all such Armes, and all other Armes formerly taken from Popish Recusants shall be imployed by you for the defence of the said Countie, and shall be put into the hands of such of you or any two or more of you, shall conceive to be persons well affected in Religion, and to the peace of the Kingdom, and the proceedings of Parliament.

10. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one, or more of you, shall take care that none of the Recusants Armes, or other Amunition of the said Countie; shall be taken or carried out of the same upon any pretence or command whatsoever, without warrant from both Houses of Parliament, or authority derived from them: And you or any one or more of

you, shall apprehend and imprison in such places as you shall thinke meete, all such Popish Recusants in the said County, as doe not confine themselves to their dwelling-places, according to the statute in that case provided.

11. You the Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you shall seize, and take into your custody the publike Magazines of the said County, and the same shall be disposed and imployed for the defence of the County in such manner, as shall bee thought fit, by the said Sir William Brereton one of the Members of the House of Commons or in his default or neglect, then by any two or more of the said Inhabitants and any three of more of the said Deputy-Lieutenants.

12. And you the said Deputy Lieutenants or any two or more of you are likewise to give charge from both Houses of Parliament, to all Colonells, Captaines, Lieutenants, and all other Officers for the Militia ; that they shall bee observant to such directions, as they shall from time to time receive from the Lord Lieutenant of the said County, or his Deputies, or any of them, for the due performance of any the commands of the said Houses.

13. You the Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one, or more of you shall resist and repell, and are hereby authorised to resist and repell, by the power of the said County, and all other wayes, and means, all such force and violence as shall be raised, or brought by any person or persons to the hinderance or disturbance of this present service, or for the arresting or seizing the persons of you, or any of you, or any other which shall bee imployed in performance of the Ordinance, Instructions and Commands of both Houses of Parliament, for any thing done in execution thereof: And the Sheriffes and Justices of peace, of the said Countie, and all other Officers and subjects, are hereby required to be ayding and assisting to you, and every of you, for the better and more speedy execution of the premises.

14. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any two or more of you, shall with the consent, of any two of

the said Deputie Lieutenants, have power and authority, to fortifie the City, Towne of Chester, or any other place of the said County, in such a manner and sort as you, or any two or more of you with the consent of any two of the said Deputy Lieutenants, shall think fit for the safety of the said County ; and for the more security of the same, shall set such severall guards and forces, in all places and Townes of the said Countie, as you or any two or more of you, with the consent of any two, of the said Deputy Lieutenants, shall think fit and requisite, and to cause the Beacons, within the said County, to be watched guarded and fired, as occasion shall require.

15. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you and every other person or persons, to be thereunto nominated and appointed, by you, or any one or more of you, shall or may call together the Inhabitants of the said County, at such times and places, as you, or they shall think fit and propound to them, what horse, men and Armes, they will find, and maintaine, and what money, plate, horse, or Victualls for horse and man, they will give, lend or advance ; for the defence of the said County of Chester, and the Kingdome of England, and to take their answers and subscriptions, and to appoint treasurers for those moneys, plate and Victualls and Commissioners for the valuing of the horse, Arms and Victualls the receiving and lifting & enrolling thereof ; which tresurers and Commissioners are hereby required, to receive, issue forth, and imploy all the said money, plate, horses, armes and victualls respectively, in such manner as by warrant from you or any two or more of you, shall be appointed for providing of ammunition for warre, and for payment of officers or souldiers or for any other things necessary for the defence of the said County or Kingdome : And whosoever within the said County, shall bring in any money, Plate, horse, Armes or Vctualls, or shall furnish or maintaine, any men horse, or armes, for the services of the said County or Kingdome, shall have their money repaired with interest ; according to eight pounds per centum ;

and the full value of their plate with consideration, for the fashion, not exceeding one shilling per ounce, and shall have full recompence for all their charge, in finding, furnishing and maintaining of men, horse and armes: And for this both Houses of Parliament, doe engage the publique faith and a signification of the said Tresurers or any two of them, for the receipt of the said monys and plate for the purposes aforesaid, shall be a sufficient ground for the parties so lending, money or plate, to demaund the same againe, with interest and consideration for the fashion of the plate; and a signification under the hands of the said Commissioners, for the valueing of the said horses, Armes and Victuals or any two of them, of the values of the horse, arms and victuals; and of the time when they were first brought in; shall be a warrant to demand satisfaction, according to those values; and they shall keep an accompt of the time from the first enrolement; of any such horse and horsemen, that such as find and maintaine them may be repayed, according to the rate of two shillings six-pence per diem, for so long time as they have maintained them in this service.

16. And you the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you, are hereby authorized, and required, to apprehend, and send up to the Parliament all such persons in the said County of Chester, as by both or either Houses of Parliament, are or shall bee Voted Delinquents.

17. You the said Deputy Lieutenants, or any three or more of you, whereof the aforesaid Member of the House of Commons, to be one, shall or may in the absence of the Lieutenant of the said County, make and appoint such Colonells, Captaines and other Officers as shall be requisite for the service and defence of that County, and to remove them out of their places, and to make others, from time to time, as you shall thinke fit for that purpose.

18. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you shall or may cause and require, strong

watches and wards to bee set by the Constables or such other persons as you shall think meet ; in all convenient places in that County, for the peace and safety thereof.

19. You the said Deputy Lieutenants or the greater part of you whereof the aforesaid member of the House of Commons to bee one, may joyne in association, with the adjacent Counties, for the mutuall defence of each other County : And for that purpose you or any of you, shall have power to conduct and lead, or to cause to bee conducted and led ; any force out of the said County of Chester, into any other Countie or Counties whatsoever, as shall be expedient for the service, and to require and receive, into the said County of Chester, out of and from, any other Counties or place, the ayd and assistance of any persons or forces whatsoever.

20. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you, shall or may apprehend or imprison, all such persons, as shall oppose you or refuse to obey you in the premises respectively, and to send him or them in safe custody up to the Parliament or any Committee of Parliament to be proceeded with according to Justice.

21. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, and every of you shall observe and execute all such further directions, and instructions, as you shall from time to time receive from both Houses of Parliament : And whatsoever you shall doe therein, or any other person in ayde or assistance of you, it shall bee accepted, of as good and acceptable service to the Kingdome : And for their and your so doing, they and you shall be defended and protected by the authority of Parliament and the Resolution of the Lords and Commons to protect those that shall obey and further their commands you shall publish and declare upon all occasions for the better encouragement of the Subjects of this Kingdome in that behalfe.

22. You the Deputy Lieutenants or any two or more of you shall publish and declare, that if any who have assisted the Commissioners of Array and their Adherents in execution of

anything contrary to any Ordinance or Order of both Houses of Parliament, shall willingly within ten days after publication made, by you or any of you returne to their duty not doing any hostile act, within the time limited, and bring in their Armes to you or any one or more of you, and joyne themselves with the Parliament in defence of Religion, his Majesties Person, the liberties and Laws of the Kingdome, and Priviledges of Parliament with their Persons and Estates: That the Lords and Commons will bee ready upon their submission, to receive such persons, in such manner as they shall have cause to acknowledge that they have been used with clemencie and favour; provided that this shall not extend to admit any man into either House of Parliament who stands suspended, without giving satisfaction to the House whereof hee shall bee a Member: And except all persons who stand impeached or particularly Voted in either House of Parliament, for any delinquency whatsoever; excepting likewise such Adherents of those who stand impeached in Parliament, of Treason, as have been eminent persons and chiefe actors in those Treasons: and except the Earle of Bristol: the Earle of Cumberland, the Earle of Newcastle, the Earle Rivers, Secretary Nicholas, Mr. Endyman Porter, Mr. Edward Hide, the Duke of Richmond, the Earle of Carnarvon, the Lord V. Newarke, the Lord V. Forkland.

23. You the said Deputy Lieut. and Inhabitants, or any one or more of you, shall take and seize all such Rents Goods and Chattels as shall belong to any that are in Armes against the Parliament: And shall put the same into such hands as shall be answerable and accomptable for the same and thereof shall send a perfect Schedule to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

24. You the said Deputy Lieutenants or Inhabitants, and any one or more of you, shall take away the Armes and Horses of such as shall refuse to contribute Moneys Plate or Horse, Men or Armes upon the Propositions: And you shall force all Papists and persons disaffected to the Parliament, to contribute to the maintenance of the Army.

25. You the said Deputy Lieutenants and every of you shall take care that the Armies under your or any of your Conducts or Commands be governed according to the Lawes and Ordinances published by his Excellency the Earle of Essex; and to pay them out of such moneys as shall be paid upon the subscriptions or otherwise upon the Contributions, and upon the Estates of such as are in actuall Service against the Parliament; or have contributed any Supplies for the maintenance of it.

26. You the said Deputy Lieutenants or any three of you, shall have power to take into your protection of the Parliament such as shall bring in their Armes, and forsake the Party of the Commissioners of Array, and their Adherents against the Parliament: so as they be not Papists or Delinquents declared by both Houses of Parliament, or by either of them.

27. And lastly, All such Victuals, Money, Plate, Armes, Ammunition and provision for Warre, as shall be raised or brought in by vertue, meanes or occasion of this Ordinance or anything therein contained; or as shall be sent downe unto you the said Deputy Lieutenants and Inhabitants, or any of you by direction or appointment of both or either Houses of Parliament: or of any committee of both or either Houses of Parliament; shall be employed and bestowed in such manner as shall be agreed, directed and appointed by the said Sir William Brereton one of the Members of the House of Commons or in default or neglect, then by three or more of the said Deputy Lieutenants, by Warrant under their hands in writing.

IV.

Cheshires Successe. Since their Pious and truly Valiant Collonell Sr. William Brereton Barronet, came to their rescue. Set forth in 4 Chapters; I. The Battell at Namptwich, Jan. 28; II. The Battell at Torperley, Feb. 21; III. An account how the time was

spent since Sir William's first advancing into the County, till the Battell at Middlewich; IIII. The memorable Battell at Middlewich, Mar. 13. Confirmed by a letter sent from that Industrious and Faithfull Collonell unto his deare Friend in London: And a Copy of the same unto an Honourable Member of the House of Commons and by the House Ordered to be Printed, Together With a Catalogue of the Names of the chiefe Commanders that were taken Prisoners at the said Battell: which are 1 Baroneté, 1 Collonel, 1 Lieutenant Collonel, 2 Sergeant Majors, 9 Captaines, 6 Lieutenants, 4 Ensignes, 2 Corporalls, 1 Quartermaster, 2 Canoniers, 4 Cornets Colours, 400 and odde Prisoners; 2 Brasse Pieces, 8 Barrells of Gunpowder, &c., Whereunto is added a strange Warrant &c. And certain Newes of the great Battell neare Stafford, much like Kyneton Battell.

London: March 25. Printed for Thomas Underhill, and are to be sold in Wood Street.

Cheshires Success. Chap. I. The Battell at Namptwich.

The well affected in the County of Chester having a long time expected Sir William Brereton Barronet for their relief (who were miserably infected by the Commission of Array) on Saturday Jan. 28, he advanced from Congleton in the same County to Namptwich; but hearing Sir Thomas Aston, with his Forces intended to take that Towne before him, he sent a Partie before to secure the Towne for himselfe, who were but few in number, but came seasonably; Sir William advanced after with his Carriages, which he durst not leave without himselfe to guard them. Sir Thomas understanding that a Partie of Ours had possest themselves of the Towne, he came against it about three of the Clock, was five times valiantly repelled; in which assaults we lost but one man, slaine by a poysoned Bullet, though the Towne lay open on all sides, without any trench or banke: when he saw his hopes for that Towne frustrate, he retreated, and fell upon Sir William, who

was not above 150 strong ; but Sir Thomas had heere 400. Besides that, he had all other advantages ; for hee had first survey'd and chosen his ground in a Lane neere the Towne, had made his Van strong, flank'd them on either side, and there stood in Battalia, till Sir William came, who had no notice of his enemies, but by a boy who told him of their approach, which caused them to order themselves for an assault, in chance that Newes were true ; but they were gotten into the jawes of death before they were aware ; for it being darke, neere sixe of the clock, they discern'd them more by the Enemies whispering than by their one eye : but God to whom the light is all one as the day, was a Pillar of fire unto them, and gave them so much light as serv'd to the obtaining of a glorious Victory. Sir Thomas let flye, but without successe ; Sir William discharged his Drakes which wrought more terror than execution : for the ground was very rough ; but the enemy cry'd, Let us flie, for they have great Ordnance, Captaine Goldegay dismounted His Dragoneers, and turn'd his Horses upon them, which brought them into confusion, and charg'd upon them very sore ; all the rest fell to it with their Pistols, Dragoones, and Carbines, but that service was but short, for there was neither time for place to wheele about, or renewe the Charge ; then they fell to it by dint of sword, and weight of their battle-axes ; with which they belaboured the Enemy, that the Prisoners confesse they never felt the like blowes in any other Service ; in a short time so many were unhorst, and beaten downe with violence, that all the worke that remain'd was the taking of Prisoners, Horses and Armes. Sir William who first had carried it with brave resolution, was the first that tooke Prisoners ; seconded by many more who apprehended more than they could secure. Sir Thomas seeing how things went fled (as we heare) on foot three miles, and then got an horse on which he fled to Whitchurch. Sir Vincent Corbet crawled away on all foure, lest he should be discern'd, & then ran on foot bareheaded to Ower, 6 miles, many were disperst abroad in the Fields, and divers found that



next day: one man with a stick in his hand disarm'd three men, and tooke them Prisoners, and two others that he met with also, but two of them slipt away, which he durst not pursue, lest he should loose the other three; what number of men we slew is uncertaine, but some were seene dead in the Lane, some afterwards were found dead in the fields, and some graves were discovered; we tooke 110 of their Horse, and neere 120 Prisoners; amongst those Captaine Bridgman and Captaine Chelmeley, with other Commanders and Officers, three of ours (as I take it) were slaine, and two or three were Prisoners, whom they brought into Chester with Triumph, having made them sixe in number, by men they had taken up by the high wayes. Sir Thomas after some dayes returned to Chester, with about 50 or 60 horse, but for his honour they sent many of their horses privately out to meet him, and so returned as a man well re-inforc'd; It's very probable they lost more horses than we got, by which stroake they were soulely shaken, and their friends discomfited. We for our part had a sollemne day of thanksgiving, and fell to the managing of the weighty affaires of the County.

Chap. II. The Battell at Torperley, Febru. 21.

After this, on Tuesday Feb. 21, we had a pitcht Battell at Torperley, the mid way betwixt Chester and Namptwich which was thus occasioned: We sent forth our Warrants to require all betwixt 60 and 16 yeares old to meet us at Torperley, to finde out the strength of the County, and who were for us in case we had need of them; the enemy took notice of it, and gave it out they would meet us there; we were not sure of it, because we are not sure of anything they say or sweare: yet we went out about 1500 strong, as I take it to guard the Countrey: They came also from Chester, and were on the ground before us: when we survey'd their posture, we thought they lay in Ambuscade a little from the Towne, where 4 wayes meet: we

judging that place impassable, advanced no further, but wheel'd to the right hand to plant on a good ground, neare a place called the Swannes Nest: but whilst we were on our March, they got the ground before us, where they stood in Battalia. They had all advantages that could be, the Wind cleare and strong, a firme even Soyle, well mounted, a hole towards us where they planted divers Musketiers; layd an Ambuscade in an hedge, and planted their Ordinance amongst their Horse. We Marshald ours on a Field over against them towards Tilston Hall, a Valley with a strait passage being betwixt us; we had no Ordnance nor could we reach them with our Muskets. They had as faire a mark as they could desire, for our Infantrie were at the bottome of the hill, under the command of their Muskets, and our Cavalrie, were on the high ground, the but for their Canon. We saluted one another with fire and lead; they playd on us for about the space of an houre, with Canon and Musket, yet we lost not a man only 3 were shot, scarce wounded and an Horse hoofe hit with a Musket ball out of a Canon, which was a miraculous providence of God in the judgement of all men: Besides our Forces there we had about 200 in Beston Castle, which we sent for to joyn with us, reserving 30 to keep the Castle, which they finding out by their scouts, sent two Troops to intercept them, having by treachery gotten their word, they saluted them as Friends, gave them the word, shook hands and the more deluded them by Captaine Greene, who was very like a Lieutenant of ours, and whom they had drest in an Habite most like him: but being within them, they bid them throw downe their Armes, and let the Round-head Rogues try for Quarter: whereupon Ours retreated a little, and then gave fire which so amaz'd them that both troopes fled: Sir Thomas pistol'd one, that for that day bare the Colours, and our Partie report they saw divers of theirs fall upon their fiering.

The issue of that dayes worke was this, we retreated to the Heath to find out a better ground, considering wee might suffer much, but could make no execution on them where we were

rallied; new ground was not to be found there, it being a conegrew, part of the army making it a retreat, the rest followed, not out of fear for our Enemy durst not meet us on even termes, but to get home before wee were nighted: the Enemy by their Scouts, discovered about 700 of our Club-men comming neere them from the Forrest, and in a good posture suspected that we wheeled to the left, while the other were ready to charge on the other hand, which struck them with such feare that they fled to Chester. The Commission of Array staid at the Crosse in Torperley, not daring to come to Battell, whereby they had had the Precedency in the fight: thereby Torperley scap'd plundering and the Parsonage the ruine threatened; for they stay'd not to drink a draught of Beere, but bad them solemnize another day of thanksgiving, scoffing at the Ordnance, and triumphed in Chester, they had got Sir Williams hat and feather, a great Tropee, though upon examination, it was found to be one their owne Souldiers.

Chap. III. An account how the time was spent since Sir Williams First advancing into the County till the Battle at Middlewich.

For as much as many are charging us of sloath and neglect of the Country, sith little hath beene done of late in a long time; we shall truly relate what things in sixe or seven weeks space have been done, and let others judge.

After Sir William had possest himselfe of Namptwich, his case was to order, enlarge and maintaine his forces, how to bring in the Gentry to him, who had conjoyn'd in the late accommodation with the Commissioners of Array, and how to secure the Towne, which was extremely malignant and lay very open: businesse came in on a Throng but the Country came not in to help forward that worke, but by speciall warrant. It hath been found a worke of no small difficultie to perfect that worke begun, what ever others thinke that make their reckning without their

hoste. All were forward for the taking of Chester, which in all probabilitie had been feasible, had we suddainly called in the Countrie, and gone about it, before they had time to reinforce themselves, and before their trenches were made, but we knew we could doe little without assistance, so by degrees wee drew in the Gentry, and many fit to beare Armes, and of so small a beginning are enlarged to about 2000 well appointed, many of these being Horse and Dragoneer's: then we set the Proposition for mony on foot in a very strict way, which hath brought us in many hundreds, much provision of Cheese, Bacon, Hay, Corne, &c. and not a few Horse, wee have also all sorts of Officers amongst us; fitting for a Campe, and have brought in Malignants goods from all parts about us: we have taken in Beston Castle, where we keep a Garisone which awes all the Country about, at which our Enemies grinde their teeth, and the walls being in many places levelled to the ground, we have made up all those breached with mud walls, so as we doubt not but to keepe out 20000 men with that small garison; we have intrencht all this Towne of Namptwich with good workes and Walls so as through Gods helpe we feare not, though many thousands of our enemies encampe against us. We have fortified Northwich with trenches, Sconces &c. for the securitie of all those parts, which have beene much infected by the Commission of Array, and the Earl of Darbies forces at Warrington, and wee have often sallied out for the clearing of those parts which were most in danger. One place above others hath been extremely assaulted: Mr. Brookes of Norton: a neere Neighbour to the Earl Rivers, against which they brought their Canon, with many Horse and Foote, and fell to batter it on a Sabboth day: Mr. Brooke had 80 men in the house, we were careful he should lack no powder, with all other things, Master Brooke furnisht them fully: a man upon his Tower with a flag in his hand cryde them ayme while they discharged their Canon, saying wide my Lord on the right hand, now wide two yards on the left, two yardes over my Lord &c. He made them swell for anger, when they

could endamage the house, for they only wounded one man, lost 46 of their owne, and their Canonier, then in divelish revenge they burnt a barne, and Corne worth (as is valued) a thousand pound, set fire to another, but more execution was made on the man that attempted it, than the Barne; for he was blinded in firing the barne, and so found wandering in the field, and confest hee had 5 pound given him for his Service. After this they plundered Mr. Brookes Tenants, and returned home with shame and hatred of all the Country: so this worthy mans rescue, we could no goe, because the march was long and full of hazard, and wee thought their ayme was to tire us out upon that service, upon which they might put us almost every day, by reason of Halton Castle in their possession, and but halfe a mile from Norton. More we might instance in to take of our reproach, but another Armie greater than ours, lying under the same censure, will vindicate us, unlesse ungratefully we condemne them.

Chap. IIII. The Battle at Middle-wich, betwixt Collonell Brereton, and Sir Tho. Aston, March 13.

Sir Thomas Aston and his partie in Chester, recovering strength after their late overthrow, exercised the same in mischiefe, and all wicked out-rages, for besides their plundering and wasting of all the Countrie neere Chester, they laid such intollerable taxes both on the Citie and Countrie thereabout, that their owne party was imbittered against them, yea before we secured Northwich, whiles some of our forces were in that Country; they plundered Weverham, and the Countrie about, they carried old men out of their houses, bound them together, tyed them to a cart, drave them through mire and water, above the knees, so brought them to that Dungeon, where they lie without fire or light, and now through extremities are so discased that they are readie to yield up the Ghost.

On the Sabbath, March 12, having a little before advanced to

Middlewich, they plundered all that day, as a most proper season for it, commanded the Carts in all the Countrie about, to carrie away the goods, kept a Faire that day neere Torperley, to sell those goods: In Over when they had plundered they left Ratbane in the house wrapt in papers for the children, which by Gods providence was taken from them before they could eate it, after their Parents durst returne to them, and being a considerable body, they sent for more strength, and by their warrants to the Churches about, commanded all the Countrie to come in, with such insolent, and imperious expressions, that they were hatefull to some Malignants, and concluded to give no quarter to any Round-heads, and were confident quickly to carry all downe before them.

Sir William at that time was at Northwich with a considerable party, many Gentlemen of his partie were at Nantwich, with about 7 or 800 armed men, their generous spirits were inrag'd to see such outrages committed, it wrought alike in all Sir Williams Forces to provoke us for to fall upon the Enemy, though wee could not easily communicate our purposes one to another: at Nantwich we agreed to assault them the next morning, signified the same to Sir Will: he was as forward as we, our Gent. desired a Minister to come to their chambers upon the Alarum to be given at 12 a clock, that commending them to God in prayer they might speed the better, some Ministers and others fell to the worke that day; by prayer and fasting, though not as Moses, Aaron and Hur, in prospect of the Armies, yet wrestling as Jacob did, and puting their mouthes in the dust, if so be there might bee hope, of which they had a gracious returne by three a clocke. The businesse of that day was carryed thus: Sir Will: being foure miles from the Enemy assaulted that side of the Towne by 8 a clock, March the 13th, and continued the fight for about three or foure houres before we came to his help: In which time this accident fell out, that his powder was all spilt excepting about 7 pound, they tooke Councill upon it, and it was concluded they must reitreit, because

their partie from Namptwich was not come in to their assistance, but Sir William was resolute not to reitreit, but to send to Northwich for more powder, and to keep them in play as well as they could till the Powder came, which accordingly they did, betwixt 11 and 12 a clock, we came to their assistance, which they knew not of untill they heard us in hot service, on the other side the Town, when we began, their powder came. The Enemy had chief advantages, their Ordinance planted : we had none, they layd about 150 Musquetiers in an hole convenient for them, they layd their Ambuskadoes in the hedges, Musquetiers in the Church and steeple, and had every way so strengthened themselves, that they seemed impregnable : But God lead on our men with incredible courage. Captaine George Booth fac'd the Towne with his Troope whiles they plaid on with their Ordinance, which one grazed before them, and then mounted cleare over them, in another that it dasht the water and mire in his and two other Captaines faces, but there it dies : This was no discouragement to our men, they marcht upon their all Ambuscadoes, drave them all out of them into the Towne, entered the Towne upon the mouth of the Canon, and storme of the muskets, our Major (a right Scottish blade) brought them up in two files with which he lined the walls, and kept that street open, went up to their Ordinance, which he tooke, then the Enemy fled into the Church, Sir Thomas Aston would have gon after them, but they durst not let him in, lest we should enter with him, then he mounted his Horse, and fled with all speed by Kinderton, and divers others with him, for that way onely was open all the rest we had surrounded, we slew divers upon the top of the Steeple, and some they say within the Church : our Major with Captaine Hide fired the Church-doore, and thrust at them with swords as they lookt out of the Windowes, then presently they cride for quarter, which was granted them : we tooke Sir Edward Mosley Baronet, one Colonell, one Serjeant Major, eleven Captaines, 3 of them Cheshire men, Captaine John Hurleston, Cap. Massie of

Cottington, and Cap. Starkie, we tooke 3 Colours from their Troops. Sir Thomas Astons being one, and about 500 more, many of them Commanders, and it is probable neere as many are fled to their Houses, never to returne to that partie againe, we have taken their Ordinance and much Powder, the Souldiers tooke much spoyle from the prisoners, abundance of Money, for they had converted their plundered ware into Coyne, a multitude of Musquets, Buffe Coates, Scarfes, Swords, Satin Doublets, &c. We lost 6 men, and about 10 are wounded: wee slew of their about 30 that we know off, besides many wounded: our Gunpowder by accident was blowne up so soone as we entered the Towne, but God supplied us more then treble out of our Enemies store: Sir Thomas is fled that Countrie, the Array are in great perplexite. The tidings of this comming to Nampwich, we turn'd our prayers into prayses, sent the Belman to warne the Towne to the Church, to returne God thanks for such an unparalel'd mercy, which they did with great alacritie, and joyfull acclamations, in a full Congregation. Upon Wednesday after, the Colonell with all the Gentlemen, Souldiers and the whole Towne presented God with solemne thanksgiving, who hath hitherto crowned this Countie with such glorious victories.

Not unto us Lord, not unto us, but to thy Name bee all the Glory. For by thy power we have beaten downe such as have risen up against us.

A Letter from Sir William Brereton.

This day is deservedly set apart to be a day of Thanksgiving for that compleat and great Victory which the Lord hath given us on Monday last, even then when the enemy came out armed with power (of flesh) and resolution to destroy and over-run all the rest of the Countrey; In which designe they were so hopefull and confident as that they tooke the boldnesse to encamp themselves in Middlewich, a Town between Nampwich and Northwich, where I was, and where we had begun to fortife and

place a Garrison : we conceived this attempt of most dangerous consequence, and therefore thought fit to allow them no rest, not to give them time to Fortifie. To this end, there was a strong party of Horse went out from Northwich upon Saturday night last, upon their first comming there, who gave them an alarm, the next day being the Sabbath, could not be observed, it being the worke of the whole day to prepare for our defence, and how to annoy the Enemy, towards whom I went out upon Sunday in the afternoon, with betwixt two and three Troops of Horse, and betwixt two and three Companies of Dragoons who went neere to Middlewich, and gave them an Alarm there, but without any intention to assault them in their Quarters, they being very strong in Foot, and well armed and we had no Foot at all then there, our greatest care being to preserve the country from Plundring, and let the enemy know we durst looke them in the face, and come even to the very doore. This evening, March 12, being Sunday, we resolved and concluded to meet the Nampwich Forces the next morning, who were appointed to come unto us by six of the clock in the morning: But we were in fight neere foure houres before they came in to our assistance; during which time they played full upon us with their Canon, but without any success at all, there being only one or two men hurt, but not mortally. During which time our Musquetiers (we had not above 200, our greatest force of Foot being at Namptwich) behaved themselves very gallantly, and made good three passages, and kept the enemy in play, till the Namptwich Forces came in to our assistance, who came on so resolutely, and with such undauntednesse of spirit, even to the amazement and admiration of the Enemy, whom they beat from their works, and from their Canon. And as they entered one end of the Town, our Souldiers entered the other end with no lesse courage and resolution. Colonell Ellis, Serjeant Major Gilner, Sir Edward Moseley, and ten captaines more, besides all other Officers (a List of whose Names you shall find here inclosed) who betook themselves to the Church and Steeple, from whence they did

much annoy us for some short time ; but within an houre after, the Lord was pleased to make us possessors of the Church and Steeple ; and of the Commanders and Souldiers that were therein ; and of their Ordinance, Magazine, and great store of Arms, so as I beleeeve since the beginning of this unnaturall Warre, God hath not given many more compleater Victories, nor hath there been many more Prisoners taken, there being not many fewer than 500 Prisoners, and very many of them commanders and considerable persons. I desire the whole praise and glory may be attributed to Almighty God, who infused courage into them that stood for his cause, and strucke the enemie with terrour and amazement. For further particulars I must referre you to a fuller relation.

We heare nothing from London how things goe there, but our confidence is in the Lord of heaven ; to the protection of whose Providence, I desire to commend you, and so conclude, and Rest,

Your ———

Namptwich, 15 March, 1642.

William Brereton.

Another Letter from a man of Note.

Sir, I neede not relate to you the great victory which the Lord hath given us at Middlewich, a Reverend Divine in our Army, having sent up an exact Relation of all our Proceedings since our Comming into these parts ; to which Relation I refer you ; yet a few great Circumstances I may not omit ; Sir Tho: Aston, Colonell Laigh of Adlington, and all their Troops of Horse fled away, or else we had taken them, which makes many of the Commanders that we have taken Prisoners affirm, that if they were at liberty, they would never fight for Sir Tho: Aston without a promise under his hand that he would not run away: Nothing vexed them more then that he would not let them know so much, that they might have shifted for themselves, as well as he: we lost five men, and ten were hurt, but

not one man killed with their Canons, although they shot at us all the while: Collonell Brereton carried himself very gallantly, & I doubt not, by the assistance of the Lord of Hosts, he will cleare these parts very shortly. The Prisoners that we lost in the battell of Namptwich our enemies brought with them from Chester to Middlewich, and so we have them again. The same morning we set upon them, Sir Tho: Aston, and the rest drank to Billie Brereton, as they called him, and said they would give a Breakefast anon, but such was the good hand of God upon us, that we fared better then they would have had us: Their Word was Prince Rupert; Ours, the Lord of Hosts: And so you see that The Lord of Hosts overcame Prince Rupert, Farewell.

A Catalogue of the Names of those that were taken Prisoners at the Battell.

One Baronet, Sir Edward Mosely.

One Collonell Ellis.

1 Lieutenant Col. Massey of Coddington.

2 Sergeant Majors, Hurlstone, Gilmore.

Nine Captaines.

Corbet, Starkey, Morris, Davenport, Jones, Horton, Eaton, Floyd, Mason.

Sixe Lieutenants.

Sherlet, Marbey, Hosevar, Jennings, Dod, Corbet.

Foure Ensignes—Ward, Proudlove, Morris, Davenport.

2 Corporalls.

1 Quartermaster.

2 Canoneers.

4 Cornets Colours.

The Foot Companies had no Colours.

400 and odde Common Souldiers.

2 Brasse Pieces, all the Enemy had there.

4 Barrells of Powder, and as much more which the Souldiers tooke in baggs.

A Copie of a Warrant sent abroad in Cheshire, from the chiefe Agents for the King in that County, and which should have been put in strict execution, had not the good successe of Valiant Sir William Brereton hindered it. But it will very well serve for a President to the contrary Party.

Whereas by the Kings Majestie, His Warrant under His Signe Manuall, bearing date at Oxford, 28 day of Febr. last ; whereby it appeareth that His Majestie is informed that divers Gentlemen and Freeholders of that County are at this time in actuall Rebellion in this County. And that others have absented themselves from their houses, and habitations, and doe assist the present unnaturall Rebellion ; We are required and commanded to seize and sell all the goods, and to sequester, and lease out the estates of all such persons as have or shall appeare in Rebellion, or having withdrawn themselves shall be any wayes aiding or assisting to the Rebels in any place whatsoever.

And Wee are thereby required to imploy the issues and profits arising out of such persons goods, and estates for advancing His Majesties service, and the maintainance of the necessary charge, of this County and City.

These are therefore in pursuance of His Majesties pleasure and command, and for the advancement of this service, to publish and declare, and strictly to charge and command all person and persons, having in their hands any of the goods and chattels, or in their possession any lands of any person in Rebellion, or aiding and assisting to any of the Rebels, to give speedy notice of such goods or lands in their possession, to Sir Nicholas Byron the Governour of the City of Chester, and high Sheriffe of the County, within sixe dayes after publication thereof.

And further to publish and declare unto all such persons, as have since the first of January last, withdrawn themselves from their houses and habitations in the County of Chester, whereby they have deprived His Majesties loyall subjects, their aide and



assistance for suppressing the present Rebellion ; that they and every of them shall within sixe dayes after publication thereof, returne to their respective dwellings, and acquaint Sir Nicholas Byron of such their returne, or shew unto him the cause of absenting themselves, upon perill of being proceeded against, as persons aiding and assisting the Rebels, according to His Majesties command aforementioned. And hereof they are to take notice at their Perils. Given under Our hands, and the hand of the said Governour of Chester, the 8 of March, 1642.

Rivers. Rob: Kilmurrey. Rob: Cholmley.
Tho: Savage. Nic. Byron.

From the Army neere Stafford.

Since the Messenger was not dispatched away with that expedition expected when the Letters within were written, I thought good to adde what hath since occurred in these parts.

Upon Sunday, March 19.

We had a Battaile with the Enemy upon Salt Heath, neere Stafford, wherein we had also very good successe, our strength then present come in upon that ground, being but small in respect of theirs; especially their Horse, whereof there were (as is conceived) 1000 or 1200 there being the Kings owne Troope, or the Princes, and the Duke of Yorkes. On their part was slain the Earle of Northampton, whose body we tooke away with us from the ground, the Kings owne Standard was taken, and the Cornet slaine, and 3 or 4 more Colours. We have one of the Earle of Chesterfields Sons prisoner, namely Fardinando.

Of theirs great store were slain, many Cart loads we heere were carryed away, sure we are that about 60 were found dead in one ditch: We heare say we have slain many men of note, Hastings is wounded, and we had him, but he overgot us in the Fight; our enemies were valiant fellows, and causing our Horse

to retreate upon our Foot, we were afraid they would have disorder'd them, and that we should have had the worst of it, but prasiéd be God, our fresh-water souldiers kept their rankes, and fought manfully, caused the enemy to retreate, and we kept the field 3 houres after; we have not any one considerable man of our side killed or hurt. In some respects this was like Keinton Battle.

1. They were both upon the Lords day.
2. In regard of the suddennesse of it.
3. They lost their Generall then, so now.
4. The Kings Standard was taken then, so now (Sir William Brereton hath it).

Herein they differ, the enemy had more advantages of us at this fight, than at Keinton, they being 2 if not 3 to our one, &c. And in the smalnesse of our losse, which was not above 6 or 8 men at the most. We are now returned to Uttoxeter, about 10 miles off Stafford to refresh our selves. The Lord be praised, I rest,

Yours.

Uttoxeter, March 20, 1642.

Some say Master Spencer Lucie is slaine.

We lost two Case of Drakes.

The Originall of which the Stationer can shew any man from a good hand.

Master Noble and Sir Edward Littleton have Letters to reade in the House this Saturday morning, which agree with this Relation.

V.

The Cheshire Petition for establishing of the Common-Prayer-Booke, and suppression of Schismatiques, presented to the Kings Majestie, and from him recommended to the House of Peers by the Lord Keeper. To the Kings most Excellent Majestie, and

to the Right Honourable the Lords, and the Honourable the House of Commons assembled in Parliament. The humble Petition of divers of the Nobility, Justices, Gentry, Ministers, Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the County Palatine of Chester, whose names are nominated in the Schedule annexed.

London : Printed for *John Austin*. 1642.

Your Petitioners with all Cheerefulness and contentation, affying in the happy settlement of the distractions both of Church and State by His Majesties pious care, and the prudent and religious endeavours of this Honourable Assembly, & with due humility and obedience, submitting to the unanimous conclusions thereof, yet conceive themselves bound in duty,

Humbly to represent to your mature considerations, that the present disorders of many turbulent and ill disposed spirits, are such, as give not onely occasion of present discontent to your Petitioners, but seeme to import some ill event without early prevention. The pure seed of our faith the doctrine of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, established by so many Acts of Parliament, and so harmoniously concurring with the confessions of all other Reformed Churches, being tainted with the Tares of divers Sects and Schismes lately sprung up amongst us.

Our pious, laudable, and ancient formes of Divine Service, composed by the holy Martyrs, and worthy Instruments of Reformation established by the prudent Sages of State (your religious Predecessors) honoured by the approbation of many learned forraigne Divines, subscribed by the Ministry of the whole Kingdome, and with such generall content received by all the Laity, that scarce any family or person that can read, but are furnished with the Bookes of Common Prayer: In the conscionable use whereof many Christian hearts have found unspeakable joy and comfort, wherein the famous Church of England our deare Mother hath just cause to glory; And may she long flourish in the practise of so blessed a Lyturgie; yet it is now, not onely depraved by many of those who should teach

conformity to established Lawes, but in contempt thereof in many places wholly neglected: All these daily practised, with confidence, without punishment: To the great dejection of many sound Protestants, and occasioning so great insultation and rejoycing in some Separatists, as they not onely seeme to portend, but menace some great alteration; And not containing themselves within the bounds of civill government, doe commit many tumultuous (if not sacrilegious) violences both by day and night upon divers Churches.

Therefore your Petitioners being all very apprehensive of the dangerous consequences of Innovation, and much scandalized at the present disorders,

Doe all unanimously pray,

That there be admitted no Innovation of Doctrine or Lyturgie, that holy publike Service being so fast rooted by a long settled continuance in this Church, that in our Opinion and Judgments it cannot bee altered (unlesse by the advice and consent of some Nationall Synode) without an universall discontent. And that some speedy course be taken to suppress such Schismatiques and Separatists, whose factious spirits doe evidently endanger the peace both of Church and State.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

The Petition Signed by Lords, Knights, Justices of the Peace,
and Esquires, 94.

By Gentlemen of quality, 440. By Divines, 86.

By Freeholders and other, in all, 8936.

VI.

The humble Petition of 85 Gentlemen and Free-Holders, and 15 Ministers of the County Palatine of Chester. Preferred to His Majestie at York, the seventh of May, 1642. In behalf of themselves and others. Together with His Majesties gracious Answer.

York: Printed by *Robert Barker*, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by the Assignes of John Bill. 1642.

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie.

Humbly sheweth,

That though our Fears and Distractions have been many and great, and much encreased by your Maiesties absence from your Parliament, yet were we never destitute of hope, that the Fears and Prayers of your dutifull and truly-affected Subjects might be powerfull with your Royall Brest, so far as to imbrace, with tendernesse, your whole Kingdom, in its representative Body, your great Councill. But now our Sorrows are doubled, our Fears multiplied, and even the little hope we had fails us, hearing the report of your Maiesties Resolution to undertake a dangerous voyage into Ireland, whereon we reflect with much terrour and amazement; yet we are confident your Maiestie will pardon our love and duty, if in our hearts we cannot consent to a Journey wherein your Royall Person is exposed to variety of perill by Land and Sea, Winde and Water making no difference betwixt the greatest King and the meanest Subject; and if God (the Guardian and Preserver of Princes) should safely waft you over; yet your Maiesties Person cannot, in our apprehension, be secure amongst so many Popish, Cruell, and Barbarous Rebels, who have forgot Religion, Piety, and even Humanity it self, murthuring your Maiesties innocent Protestant Subjects, without respect of Age, Sex, or Condition, thereby rendring themselves unworthy, and incapable of any Grace or favour from your Maiestie, their Actions calling for Your exemplary Justice upon them, and our hearts affections imploring Your Gracious consideration of these ensuing particulars.

1. To comfort our hearts by deferring your journey into Ireland, and by residing where you may with more conveniency and security, consult with your great Councill.

2. To consider to what danger (if your Resolution for Ireland continue) You expose us by the Popish Faction, when your Maiestie shall leave us naked, we not being put into a posture of Defence, to repell the rage and attempts of the enemies to our Religion, who (we have too just cause to fear) but wait for an opportunity to bring to birth their cruell Conceptions; and what so great advantage can they hope for, as by your Maiesties absence.

3. To advise, Whether this Journey will not much retard the intended Reliefe for Ireland, since upon the first Rumour, many who were minded to subscribe, demur in their proceedings, and others wish they might recall what they have subscribed, and not to deprive us at once of that poor remainder of hope we have to reap further good by the endeavours of your Parliament, whereof we shall despair, when your presence shall be wanting to perfect their Proposals and Conclusions.

4. To consider how David (that Religious and Valiant King) offering to go in Person against his Rebels, was by his people (in the tendernesse of his Person) humbly dissuaded from that Resolution, they valuing his Person above ten thousand of their own: which gracious and provident Petition David graciously yeelded unto, saying, What seemeth you best, that will I do; which we humbly beg may be the effect of your Majesties Answer to your humble Petitioners, who forbear to presse your Maiestie with number of Persons, or multitude of Hands (though plentifully enabled to either) knowing your Maiesties disaffection to both.

And we shall ever pray, &c.

At the Court at York. 9 May, 1642.

His Majesty hath given me expresse command to give you this
His Answer to your Petition.

That hee sees plainly that the Petition of yours hath been framed without having heard the Answer His Majestie gave to

His Parliament, upon their Petition to Him for desisting from His Journey into Ireland; for He cannot think that that Countrey (from whence He hath received formerly so good expressions of their loyall Intentions, by two former Petitions presented long since to him and the Parliament) would have been so much mistaken, as to have made this Petition, after they had seen and well considered his Majesties said Answer. And His Majestie observes very well, that this Petition is not like others, which by an untimely zeal, have desired him to return to his Parliament; you onely desiring him there to reside, where with more conveniency and security he may consult with his great Councell, then by going into Ireland: His Majestie being confident, That your well weighing of his answers concerning that subject, hath been the cause that you have not imitated some few other countreys in that particular; And that you have well considered the Rebellious Affront offered to him at Hull, by a hostile opposition of his entrance; And therefore beleeves that the same Reason which made you, at this time, expresse your tender care of his Person, and the former good expressions you made of your Loyalty and right-set Affections to the good of the whole Kingdom, may sooner induce you to petition the Parliament to apply themselves to a right understanding of His Majesties wayes and intentions, and to do him Justice for that Affront, then make you to preferre any such ill-grounded Petition. And that you may be the better informed of his Majesties proceedings in those particulars; He recommends to your view and consideration, his Answers, to the Declaration presented to Him at Newmarket, to the Petition presented to Him at York the 26 of March last, concerning his journey into Ireland, His two messages and Declaration concerning Hull, all which, when it shall be fully represented to the rest of your County, he doubts not that you will rest very well satisfied of his constant Resolution for the maintaining of, and governing you by the Law of the Land, His unmoveable Resolutions for the maintenance and defence of the true Protestant Profession,

and the suppression and chastising of the barbarous Irish Rebellion. As for your apprehensions of danger of being left naked, and not put into a posture of Defence, His Maiestie assures you, That he will take care that it shall be done in the true old legal way which hath been used in this Kingdom, without bringing in strangers to govern you, or admitting new and exorbitant Powers, derogating both from his Majesties undoubted Legall Authority, and the Liberty of the Subject, which, as He hath constantly denied, so He expects, and no wayes doubts, but that you will give Obedience to that, and that onely, which shall proceed from His Majestie in a legall way.

Subscribed by M. Secretary Nicholas.

VII.

Two Petitions from the Countie Palatine of Chester, and of the Inquests serving at the Assizes for the body of the said Countie. One presented to his Majestie at Yorke, the 7 of May. The other to the Honourable House of Commons, the 24 of May.

London: Printed by R. Badger, for Richard Lownds, at his shop next without Ludgate. 1642.

To the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses, of the Commons House in Parliament.

The Humble Petition of the Esquires, Gentlemen, Ministers, Freeholders, and other inhabitants within the Countie Palatine of Chester, whose names are subscribed.

Humbly shewing,

That your petitioners having a long time groaned under the many and heaveie presures of this languishing State, especially the exorbitant power of the Prelates, and their Courts, and continuall feare of insurrection by blood-thirsty Papists, which might produce such miserable effects, and unheard of cruelties as have beene acted by them in the Kingdome of Ireland, doe with all

thankfullnesse to God, his Majestie and this Honourable House acknowledge your indefatigable labours for the publike good, with the hazard of your lives, to your eternall honour, and your deep wisdomes in discovering to the whole Kingdome, the destructive diseases thereof with their originall progresse and cure in the late Remonstrance, (a lookingglasse for this age, and a full justification of your proceedings, in all succeeding generations) your happy successfull endeavours, in dispelling the Northerne storms, suppressing the Starchamber, and high Commission Courts, easing of us the burden of Ship-money, Monopolists, bridling the unlimited power of the Prelates, and other Ecclesiasticall Consistories, depriving them of their votes in Parliament, where they were opposite to many good proceedings, notwithstanding a Petition in our Countreys name in defence of Bishops authoritie and their votes, presented by a too officious member thereof to the House of Peeres, to our great grieve, which Petition we utterly disclaime and protest against your tender care for the Kingdome of Ireland, and vigilant providence for this Nation by ordering the Militia thereof, that we fall not into the same ruine by Papist and their Party, as Ireland hath done, all which you have effected) as the Israelites built the walls of Jerusalem) in troublesome times, yet being encouraged by the premises and examples of other Counties we make bold further to supplicate this honourable Assembly for the perfecting of the Reformation of our Church already begun, the abandoning of that abominable Idoll of the Masse out of Court and Countrey, the maintaining and vindicating of the privileges of Parliament, the removall of Papist lords out of the House of Peeres, that your wholesome counsels be not disappointed, the diminishing of the vast revenues and power of the Bishops, who else may in time againe become as mischievous to the Church, as they have formerly been to the State, the removing of improfitable Deans and Chapters scandalous and insufficient Ministers, Pluralities and non residents, placing of godly preaching ministers in every congregation throughout the Realme,

reducing the Officers fees in all Courts of Justice, to a certainty with a strict penaltie for such who exceed them that stricter Lawes may be enacted, for the due sanctification of the Sabbath, and avoiding of all prophanations thereof, that nothing needlesse or justly offensive in the Liturgie may be urged, Papists may bee put out of Commission and duly disarmed, who are potent and eminent in this and neighbouring Counties, which (in our opinion) of all other Counties, is now most exposed to danger by reason it borders on Ireland, for which cause we humbly desire a Magazine and a Block-House may be erected at Hel-brye which may command the mouth of the passage both of Chester and Liverpoole-water.

All which our Requests wee humbly submit to your grave wisdomes, desiring such a seasonable accomplishment, as other of your weighty affaires will permit, and doe here with all alacritie prostrate our persons and estates at your feet, to bee employed by you in any publike service, which may conduce to Gods glory, his Majesties honour, the preservation of our liberties and the wellfare of his Church and State, to which wee are ingaged by our late Protestation.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

The humble Petition of the Gentry, ministers, and free-holders of the Countie Palatine of Chester, and of the inquests serving at the Assizes for the body of the said Countie. Presented to His Majestie at York. May 7, 1642.

Humbly sheweth,

That though our heart breaking griefs have been many and great, through a lively apprehension of our woefull distractions, which have been of late much increased by this long night of your absence, from your great Council, yet we have had some surviving reliques of hope, that the sighes and groanes, the teares

and prayers of so many dutifull and well affected subjects, from all parts might (in time) have beene accepted, and at length have proved powerfull to have melted your Royal brest into compassion, and with such a loving and pleasant violence, might have wonne you to imbrace againe with all tendernesse Your whole Kingdome, as it is at this present represented in Parliament.

But now we lament that even those hopes appeare to us gashly as breathing their last, having little vigour remaining in them to uphold our hearts for our sorrowes are doubled, our feares multiplyed, by the report of your Majesties resolutions to undertake a dangerous voyage into your Kingdome of Ireland, whereon we look with much wonder and astonishment, far be it from you dread Sovereign to blame our hearts, which (guided by the strength of law and dutie) cannot consent to a journey so perillous, by which your Royall person (wherein we challenge so great interest, that it no more yours than ours) shall undergoe varietie of dangers by Sea and Land, wind and waters, having no difference betwixt a King and his meanest vassall.

And if God the guardian and preserver of Princes shall safely waft you over, what valuable securitie can be given us of your life, being amongst such Papish, barbarous and cruell Rebels, as (having banished the sense of all religion, Pietie, and Humanitie, and rejecting God and you their King from rainging over them), doe continue to murther daily Your innocent and Protestant Subjects, of all ages, sexes and conditions, and which they would perswade the world they doe act by Your authoritie, approbation and command, thereby heaping vengeance upon their owne heads, and rendring them uncapable and unworthy, the thoughts of the least grace and favour let your justice, we beseech your Majesty have its proper work upon them, and your mercy upon us, by granting our most humble prayers to these particulars.

To comfort our hearts by your residing where you may with best convenience consult with your great Councill before you thus hazard your person and your people.

To consider to what danger hereby you expose us by the popish faction, when your Majestie shall leave us naked, and not put into a posture of defence, to repell the rage and attempts of the enemies to our religion, when wee have too just cause to feare that they doe but wait for an opportunitie to bring to birth their cruell conceptions. And what so great advantage can they hope for, as would be this of your absence.

To advise whether this journey would not much retard the intended reliefe for Ireland since (upon the first rumour) many who were minded to subscribe thereto, doe demur in their proceedings, and others with that they might recall what they have subscribed. Not to deprive us at once of that poore remainder of hope we have to reape further good by the endeavours of Your Parliament, whereof we shall dispaire when your presence shall be wanting to infuse life in their proposals and conclusions.

To believe that a journey to White-Hall will be the more for your honoured safetie, and far more acceptable to your truest subjects, than a voyage to Ireland.

To view at our humble intreaty that part of King Davids story, who being resolved in person to Warre against the Rebels, acquainted the people with his intention, in these words of resolution, I will goe with you myselfe also, but his best Subjects (that were ready to hazard their lives for him, would not suffer him to venture his regall person, which was to them so perrilous) opposed him these termes, Thou shalt not goe forth, neither did David reject them as presumptuous, knowing that their confident expression in that particular was the issues of their dutie and love, but gave them this mild and satisfactorie reply, (which we humbly beg, may be Your Majesties answer to your Parliament, us, and all other your good subjects) what seemeth you best, that will we do,

So shall we ever pray, etc.

VIII.

The Resolution of the Protestant Gentry and Commonalty of Cheshire. Concerning their Petition lately presented to the Kings Majesty at Yorke. Wherein is declared their Loyalty to his Sacred Majestie, and due obedience to the Honourable Houses of Parliament. With all their Protestation to spend their Lives and Estates to defend His Sacred Majesty from all dangers, either Forreigne or Domesticke. And also to defend the Parliament against all opposers, declaring their great confidence, that their Councils and Determinations tend to the Advancement of his Majesties Honour and the preservation of all his Loving Subjects.

London, Printed for J. Horton, 1642, June 6.

The Resolution of the Protestant Gentry and Commonalty of Cheshire.

Such have been the feares and distractions of the County of Chester, by reason of the innumerable and indeed unsufferable assemblies and tumultuous meetings of the Papists, and others that are Newtralls, or as we may terme them, lukewarme both in Loyalty and Religion, that the Gentry and Commonalty of the Protestant Party were constrayned to draw themselves to a head, and set down their Resolution, protesting to peforme these two particulars.

First they resolved to be Loyall to his Maiesty, according to their Petition lately presented to his Maiesty at Yorke, by the Gentry and Commonalty of the said County.

Secondly, they resolved to be obedient to the Parliament.

Withall desiring that all true-hearted Protestants, that desire to expresse themselves Loyall Subjects to his Maiesty, and Obedient Servants to the Parliament, would with unite consent take the same Resolution.

The manner and Forme followeth in as true and as exact a manner as could be gathered by one that was a spectator

when the Oath was taken, and Resolution declared to the high Sheriffe of the said County.

First they resolved and sollemnely Protested to declare themselves true and Loyall Subjects to his Sacred Maiesty, and to his heires forever.

Next to maintaine and to defend the Protestant profession in all points whatsoever, agreeable to the Church of England, against all Sects and Schismes, against all Papists, Donatists, Arminians, and all other Hipocriticall Doctrines whatsoever, also to maintaine the iust Prerogative of his Maiesties Regall Authority, against all opposers whatsoever.

Secondly, they Constantly and with a ioynt consent resolved to maintaine and defend the high Court of Parliament, and according to their bounden Dutie to acknowledge them (next to God, and his Maiesty) the cheife Authors of their present security, and the onely meanes of their happy continuance, and future preservation, declaring their Councels to be Religious, their Commands Lawfull, and their Actions Loyall, withall promising and protesting obedience to their Commands: and to those appointed by them to have Command, and to be Governours of the Militia.

This is the Resolution of the Protestant Gentry and Commonalty of Cheshire and this ought to be the Resolution of all the Protestants in the Kingdome, seeing that we have so many unknown Enemies, so many Absoloms which dayly rebell against his Maiesty, seeing we have so many disturbers, so many Arons lifting up the golden Calfe of Idolatry, so many deceivers sowing teares among the Corne, so many Goliahs blaspheming the Lord of Hosts, plotting the destruction of Gods annointed, we had need to have some Davids, to quell their swelling and over daring Pride, we have need of some true hearted Protestants, to defend the Protestant Religion, seeing we have so many Papists, so many wolves in Sheeps clothing, so many destroyers, so many private conspirators, that dayly conspire the downfall of the Gospell.

Wherefore let all those that would be esteemed either the zealous Servants of God, or the Loyall Subiects of their gracious Sovereigne and obedient Servants to the high Court of Parliament, let them I say take up the Resolution of the Gentry and Commonalty of Cheshire and with them cry, long live King Charles, and God preserve the Parliament.

IX.

A Declaration of the Citizens and Inhabitants of the City of Chester, whose names are subscribed, summoned to appear before His Majesties Commissioners for the array at the Roodey, within the Liberties of the said City, for their cleer manifestation of their Allegiance to His Majestie, and duty to His Parliament :

London: Printed for *Edward Husbands* and *John Frank*.
July 20, 1642.

The Citizens and Inhabitants of the City of Chester, whose names are subscribed,

Do Declare,

That as it is a Sacred truth that a Kingdom divided cannot stand, so it is a legall principle, that His most Sacred Majestie is the head, and the Parliament the representative body of His Kingdom, and that in the Cordiall union of His Majestie and his Parliament consists the safety, glory, and the happinesse thereof.

And They for their parts heartily wish they may be accursed as Corah and his Accomplices, that do or shall purposely occasion or foment any difference betweene His Majestie and His Parliament. And therefore they further declare their readinesse with their Lives and Fortunes to obey His Majestie as their most Deare and Dread Sovereigne according to their due Allegiance, and the resolution to defend the just Priviledges of Parliament according to their free and just Protestation, and

that as God and the Fundamentall Laws of this Kingdom hath joyned His Majestie and the Parliament together, So they cannot agree unto a disjoynted obedience, but do declare themselves Enemies to all such as shall go about to put His Majestie and the Parliament asunder.

And for this Resolution they have great encouragement from His Majesties own Declaration attested with forty of the Nobility and Privie Councill, whereby He hath most graciously assured them and all other His People, that He hath no more thoughts of making war against His Parliament, than against His own Children, & that He will defend the just Privileges of Parliament, and maintaine and observe the Acts assented to by His Gracious Maiestie this present Parliament with violation; for which as for other His Majesties severall gracious Protestations, for the defence of the Protestant Religion, and the Laws of the Land, they returne most humble thanks to His Majestie.

This Declaration was delivered by the Citizens of Chester to His Majesties Commissioners for the Writ of Array.

X.

The Advice and Direction of Both Houses of Parliament, to Sir William Brereton, and to the rest of the Deputy Lieutenants, for the County of Chester. With Orders of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, for the Regulating of those Souldiers that are gon, or shall goe, under the Command of his Excellency, Robert Earle of Essex, Lord Generall for this Expedition.

Die Jovis, August 18, 1642.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament that these Orders bee forthwith Printed and Published.

John Browne, Cler. Parliamentor,

August 19. Printed at London for *John Wright*, 1642.

Instructions for Sir William Brereton, One of the Members of the House of Commons, and One of the Deputy Lieutenants of the Countie of Chester, and for the rest of the Deputy Lieutenants for that Countie.

Whereas it doth appeare to the Lords and Commons in Parliament now assembled, that the King seduced by wicked Councill, intends to make War against the Parliament, and for that it is not improbable that under colour of a guard for his Majesties person, or some other pretences, the Knights, Gentlemen, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the County of Chester, may be drawne together, therefore you, and every of you, shall take speciall care that the Ordinance concerning the Militia be put in execution through the whole County; and the Sheriffe, and all other Officers are hereby moved to assist you, and every of you therein; and if any person whatsoever shall leavie or endeavor to leavy any Souldiers, or draw, or keepe together the trained bands, or other Armed Forces of the said County, or any other Force, by colour or pretence of any Commission or Warrant from his Majesty, under the great Seale or otherwise, without Order or consent of both Houses of Parliament, you, and every of you, shall in the name and authority of both Houses, require and command all persons to forbear the execution of such Commission or Warrant, and the same to be delivered up to you, or any of you, to be sent to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and you, and every of you, shall require and command all his Majesties Subjects, to forbear to obey any such warrant or Commission, and you, & every of you, are hereby required to draw together such of the trained Bands, and other Forces of the said County, as shall be expedient for the suppressing of all such Assemblies, and for apprehending of all or any person or persons as shall after admonition and command by you, or any of you, made unto them to forbear the execution of any such command or warrant, or the calling or gathering of or keeping together any such forces or assemblies, still persist in doing the same, and likewise such disaffected persons as shall be found

raising any parties or forces against the Parliament, to be sent up hither to answer such their offences as to law and Justice shall appertain; and you the above said Sir William Brereton, shall in the names of the Lords and Commons, require and command the Sheriffe of the County of Chester, to publish throughout the said County, the Declarations formerly printed by Both Houses of Parliament, and you, and every of you, shall further take care that such Resolutions, and Orders of Both Houses, (as have bin, or shall be delivered and sent down to you, or any of you) be put in execution, and shall require the Sheriffe and Justices of the peace, and all other his Majesties Officers and Lieutenants, to be aiding and assisting to you for that purpose, and you shall declare unto all men, that it hath beene, and still shall be the care and endeavour of Both Houses of Parliament to provide for his Majesties safety, that they doe not, nor ever did know of any evill intended to his Majesties person which might move him to require any extraordinary armed guard, that his greatest safety is in the Parliament, and his greatest danger in withdrawing himselfe from them; To that under colour of doing him service, disaffected and Malignant persons, obnoxious for their bad counsells against the Justice of the Law, labour to raise forces and a party, against the Parliament, which at the last may break out into open Rebellion & civil war, to the destruction both of King and Kingdome, you the said Sir William Brereton, and every of you, shall endeavour to cleare the proceedings of Parliament from all imputation and aspersions, and shall from time to time certifie so of all things which you conceive necessary for the present service, and that we may have a sudden warning of it, and that our directions to you as well as your advertisements to us may have a cleare and ready passage, you and every of you, shall lay a strict charge upon all post-masters, that they doe not suffer any Letters or other dispatches to or from the Parliament to be intercepted or stayd; and if any shall presume to make stay of such dispatches, you and every of you, shall

direct the post-masters to repaire to the Justices of the peace, Constables, and all other Officers, for their ayd and assistance, who are hereby required to take a special care that there may be no such interruptions.

You and every of you, shall take care that none of the Recusants armes or other Ammunition of the said County, be carried or taken out of the County upon any pretence or command whatsoever, without warrant of Both Houses of Parliament.

And you and every of you, shall give order and direction to the Sheriffes, Justices of the peace, and other Officers, to require and command all the Popish Recusants in that County, to confine themselves to their dwellings, according to the Statute in that case provided, and if any such Recusant shall be found to transgresse therein, you and every of you, shall cause the Justices of the Peace forthwith to bind them to their good behaviour, and upon refusal or neglect to give security accordingly, to commit them to prison, and further to proceed against them according to the Law.

You shall also in the name of Both Houses of Parliament, require all such persons who have in their custody any part of the publike Magazine of your County, to deliver the same unto you or some of you, to be imployed for the service of the said County.

And you and every of you are likewise to give charge from both Houses of Parliament, to all Captaines and Lieutenants, and other Officers of the Militia, that they be observant to such directions as they shall from time to time receive from the Lieutenant of the County or his Deputies, or any of them, for due performance of any commands of the said houses.

And you and every of you shall resist and repell, and are hereby authorised to resist and repell by the power of the said County and by all other ways and meanes, all such force or violence as shall be raised or brought by any person or persons to the hindrance or disturbance of the said service, or for the

arresting or seizing the persons of you or any of you, or of any other that shall be employed in the Ordinances, instructions and commands of both Houses of Parliament, for anything done in execution thereof, and the Sheriffe, and the Justices of peace of the said County, and all other Officers and Subjects are hereby enjoyned to be ayding and assisting to you and every of you, for the more better and speedier execution of the premises.

And the Lords and Commons doe hereby declare, that they will protect, defend and assist, all manner of persons for such actions as they shall performe in pursuance of these instructions and other Orders and commands of the said Houses of Parliament.

John Browne, Cleri. Parliament.

Orders of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

It is this day ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled that the severall Lords Lieutenants appoynted by Parliament, their Deputy Lieutenants, the Justices of the peace, and other his Majesties Officers within the Kingdome of England and Dominion of Wales, shall take speciall care to prevent and suppress all Ryots, Tumults, breaking into, or Robbing houses, breaking into Churches, taking away of the goods of any person, or taking of Victuals, without due payment for the same, and to take and apprehend all such person or persons as shall doe or commit any such outrages as aforesaid, and to proceed against them according to Law. And it is further Ordered, that the Commanders and severall officers, shall give their best assistance for the apprehension and punishment of all such persons which shall be found guilty of the misdemeanours aforesaid.

Die Jovis, August 18, 1642.

Whereas there have beene divers complaints made unto us of many Disorders committed by the Soldiers in their marching,

and in such places wherein they have been quartered or Billited, which disorders (as is informed) have been partly occasioned by the neglect of their Officers to goe along with them and conduct them: It is therefore Ordered by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, that the Lord Generall be desired to give command to all his Officers, that they take care to attend according to the duty of their severall places, that the Souldiers thereby may be hereafter kept from stragling up and down the Countries: And to that end to lay his Command upon the Officers of each Company, both in the Marching, Quartering, and Billetting, to be in person amongst the Souldiers themselves, to prevent any disorders whatsoever, and punish such as shall offend.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, that these Orders be forthwith Printed and Published.

John Browne, Cleric. Parliamentorum.

XI.

Two Declarations of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament. The One, concerning the Releasing of Diverse Worthy Ministers, and other his Maiesties good Subjects, in the County of Chester, who are imprisoned and bound over to the next Assise, for refusing to Obey the Illegall Commission of Array, and yeelding Obedience to the Ordinance and Command of Parliament. The Other, for the Repaying of all such Sums of Money, as are, or shall be brought towards this publike Charge, out of the Estates of such as are Voted Delinquents, and dis-affected to the State of the Kingdome. With an Order of Both Houses, that the Lord Generall according to his Commissions, shall take special care for punishing disorders in the Souldiers.

Die Jovis, Sept. 8, 1642.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, that these

Declarations, and the Order concerning Souldiers be forthwith printed and published. John Browne, Cler. Parliam.

September 9. London : Printed for *John Wright*, 1642.

A Declaration of the Lords and Commons in Parliament.

Whereas information hath beene given, that divers persons well-affected to the peace and safety of the King and Kingdome, have beene seized, apprehended, and imprisoned, and divers worthy Ministers Attached and bound over to the next Assizes to be holden at Chester, for yeelding obedience to the Ordinance and command of Parliament, and for refusing to obey the Illegall commands of the Commissioners of Array.

The Lords and Commons do therefore hereby Declare all those to bee enemies to the Common-wealth, and disturbers of the peace of the Kingdome, who seize, apprehend, or detaine in prison, or send out their warrants for the apprehending or otherwise molesting, any person or persons, for obeying the Ordinances and commands of the Parliament, or for refusing to obey the Commission of Array. And do require & command all Lieutenants, Deputie Lieutenants, Justices of the peace, Sheriffes, Maiors, Constables, and all other his Majesties Officers and loving Subjects, that they doe not onely forbear to execute any warrants sent out by Commissioners of Array, for apprehending, binding over to the assizes, or otherwise molesting any of his Majesties good Subjects, for not yeelding obedience to the Illegall warrants & Commands of the Commissioners of Array, but that they also assist to the protection and defence of all those who are in danger to be apprehended, oppressed, or molested, by the violence and tyranny of the Commissioners of Array ; whereof they require the Justices of Assize of the County Palatine of Chester, and the Keeper of the Castle of Chester, and of other Prisons in the said County, and all other his Majesties Officers and Subjects whom it may concern, to take especial notice, that so those that are already imprisoned or bound over by the Commissioners of Array in that County, may bee

discharged and no further prosecuted and molested by any usurped power of Authority against the Lawes of this Land.

A Declaration of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament.

Whereas his Maiesty in a Message received the 5 of September, requires that the Parliament would revoke their Declarations against such persons as have assisted his Maiesty in this unnaturall war against his Kingdome, It is this day ordered, and declared, by the Lords and Commons, that the Armes which they have beene forced to take up, and shall be forced to take up, for the preservation of the Parliament, Religion, the Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdome, shall not be laide downe, untill his Maiesty shall withdraw his Protection from such persons as have been voted by both Houses to be Delinquents, or that shall by both Houses be voted to be Delinquents, and shall leave them to the Justice of the Parliament, to be proceeded with according to their demerits, to the end that both this and succeeding generations may take warning with what danger they incurre the like hainous crimes; and also to the end that those great charges and dammages where withall the Common-wealth hath been burthened in the premises sithence his Maiesties departure from the Parliament, may be borne by the Delinquents and other malignant and dis-affected Persons, and that all his Maiesties good and well-affected Subjects, who by Loan of monies, or otherwise at their charge have assisted the Common-wealth, or shall in like manner hereafter assist the Common-wealth in time of extreame danger, may be repayed al sums of money by them lent for that purpose, and be satisfied their charges so sustained, out of the said Delinquents, and of the Malignant and disaffected party in this Kingdom.

Die Jovis, September 8, 1642.

It is this day ordered by the Lords and Commons in

Parliament Assembled, that the Lord Generall according to his Commission, shall take speciall care for the restraining and punishing disorders in the Souldiers, according to the custome of War.

John Browne, Cler. Parliam.

XII.

An Impeachment of High Treason exhibited in Parliament Against James, Lord Strange, Son and Heire apparent of William, Earle of Derby, by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, in the name of themselves, and all the Commons of England. With an Order of the Lords and Commons in Parliament, for the apprehending of the said Lord, to be published in all Churches, and Chappels, Markets, and Townes, in the County of Lancaster and Chester.

16 September, 1642.

Ordered by the Lords in Parliament Assembled, that this Impeachment, with the Order, shall be forthwith Printed and published. John Browne, Cler. Parliament.

Septemb. 17. London: Printed for *John Wright*, 1642.

The Impeachment of James, Lord Strange, Son and Heire Apparent of William Earle of Derby, by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, in the name of themselves and all the Commons of England, of High Treason.

That the said James Lord Strange, to the intent and purpose to subvert the Fundamentall Lawes and Government of this Kingdome of England, and the Rights and Liberties, and the very being of Parliaments, and to set sedition betwixt the King and his people; did upon the 15 day of July, in this present yeare of our Lord God, 1642 at Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, and at severall other times and places, actually, maliciously, rebelliously, trayterously summoned, and called

together, great numbers of his Majesties Subjects, and in fight, persuade and encourage them to take up armes and leavie war against the King, Parliament, and Kingdome.

That the said James, Lord Strange, in further prosecution of his foresaid wicked, trayterous, and malicious purposes, did upon the said 15 day of July, at Manchester aforesaid, and at severall other times and places, actually, maliciously, and trayterously, raise great forces of men and horse, and leavie war against the King, Parliament and Kingdome, and in further prosecution of the aforesaid wicked, traterous, and malicious purposes, the said same Lord Strange and diverse other persons, whom he had drawn into his party and faction, did also upon the said 15 day of July, at Manchester aforesaid, maliciously, and trayterously, with force and armes, and in a hostile and warlike manner, kill, murder, and destroy, Richard Parcivall, of Kirkmanshalme, in the said County of Lancaster, Lynen Webster, and did then and there, & at severall other times and places, in like hostile manner as aforesaid, shoot, stab, hurt and wound diverse other of his Majesties good Subjects, contrary to the Lawes and peace of this Kingdom of England, and contrary to his Majesties Royall Crowne and Dignity; and the said James Lord Strange, hath set sedition betwixt the King and his people, & now is in open and actual rebellion against the King, Parliament, and Kingdome. For which matters and things, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled, doe in the name of themselves, and of all the commons of England, Impeach the said James Lord Strange of High Treason, and the said Commons by protestation, saving to themselves the liberty of exhibiting at any time hereafter, any other accusation or Impeachment against the said Lord Strange, and also of replying to the answers of the said James Lord Strange shall make to the Premises, or any of them, or any impeachment or accusation that shall be exhibited by them, as the Cause, according to course and proceedings of Parliament, shall require; do pray that the said James Lord

Strange, may be put to answer all and every the Premises, that such proceedings, examinations, tryalls, and judgements, may be upon them, had, and used, as shall be agreeable to Law and Justice.

Veneris, 16 Septembris, 1642.

Whereas the Lord Strange, having continued a long time, and still remaining in actuall Rebellion against his Majesty, and Parliament, is for the same Impeached of high Treason, by the House of Commons, in the name of themselves, and al the Commons of England. It is therefore Ordered by the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, that publication thereof bee made in all Churches and Chappels, by the Curats and Church-Wardens thereof, and in all Markets and Townes, by the Constables and Officers of the Townes within the Counties of Lancaster and Chester, to the end that all his Maiesties loving Subjects may have notice thereof, lest they being deceived by the specious pretences made by the Lord Strange, should assist him with men, money, munition, or any other Provision, and so make themselves guilty of the like Treason and Rebellion, and all Sheriffs, and other his Maiesties subjects are hereby required to doe their best endeavour for the apprehension of the said Lord, and the bringing him up to the Parliament, there to receive condigne Punishment according to his demerits.

XIII.

A True Copy of a Letter from Chester, concerning divers Passages of the Lord Strange there. Sent to a worthy Gentleman, and read in the House of Commons. Ordered that this Letter be forthwith Printed and Published.

Sir,

I have yours of thirteene instant, and thanke you for the

good news therein, most of the Letters that came this weeke were opened, yours to me not opened, nor none of mine but one Letter before the Poste came, it was here reported that Marquesse Hartford had given a great overthrow to my Lord of Bedford, God be thanked that so many of the Caveliers are brought to London, there is such a cursed crew of them given over to all manner of lewd courses, inventing new damnable oathes, we have some here Irish, that pretend they stay for my Lord Lieutenant.

The King this day is expected at Shrosburie, and its thought will bee here upon Munday or Tuesday next, many idle rogues billeted nere the Cittie, being those souldiers that my Lord Strange hath raised, they carrie armes out of this Towne in the night by carts for my Lord Strange his service, being the armes sent by the Parliament for the service of Ireland, some having been landed out of the ships that were bound for Ireland, and by my Lord Strange his warrant, who hath done more then he can justifie, he hath souldiers billeted in severall places neere the City, and keeps them to attend him, while the King comes into these parts : so not troubling you further, I rest.

XIV.

A True Relation of His Majesties coming to the Town of Shrewsbury, on the 20 of this instant September, and his passage from thence the 23 day, to the City of Chester, with the manner of His entertainment there. Together with the L: Grandisons Surprising Nantwich, and the plundering of divers houses in the Town and Country thereabouts, of such as stood well-affected to the King and Parliament. Collected out of severall Letters from Men of good credit to their Friends in London.

London: Printed for R. R. Septem. 29, 1642.

His Majesty came to Salop on Tuesday last, with great

strength both of men and Arms, where he stayed till Friday, and then came to Whitchurch, and went to Chester ; I was one that was appointed to attend him thither, which I did, with divers more Gentlemen and Free-holders: His Majestie and the Prince dined in Whitchurch, and so went for Chester : when we came to Milongreen, there was M. Richard Edgerton of Ridley, with some 600 Muskettiers, and then when we came to Hatton-heath, there was the Lord Rivers with all his Forces, and my Lord Chomley with horse and Foot, very compleat beyond the other ; so they having displayed their Colours, gave his Majesty a volley of Shot ; which being done, his majesty having ridden once or twice about the Army, taken notice of the Sheriff and his Company, with divers other Gentlemen which were there, then came to Routtenheath, where was Sir Tho. Aston with that Company he had, which did shew themselves as the other had done. Then his Majestie set forwards for Chester ; at Bough-ton, where the Liberty of the City beginneth, the two Sheriffs of Chester, with all their Company attended : Then coming to the Bars, there attended the Maior and Aldermen, where the Maior delivered both Mace and Sword into his Maiesties hand, who received them, and gave them to him again, and so he marched before the King, with all the Aldermen and Sheriff, with all the Companies in Town with their Gowns, and all the Trained Bands of the City, with Voluntiers set on each side of the Street, who discharged just as his Maiesty passed by. Thus was his Maiesty attended to the Court with all the bells ringing, Drums and Trumpets sounding.

Thus for His Majesties going to Chester.

Chester, Septem. 24, 1642.

Yesternight, about 4 or 5 a clock, the King came into the City, attended with two Troops of Horse that came with him ; and after his Majestie, came Sir Thomas Aston with his Troop: The Maior and Aldermen standing on a Scaffold in Eastgate

Street, before Tho. Parnels door; Serieant Brerewood the Recorder made a Speech; but there was such great shouting for joy, that I think his Maiesty scarce heard him: and all the Companies standing with their Arms in the Eastgate Street, to entertain his Maiesty; and the Sheriffs, and ¹Sheriffs peers, and such as have been ²Leave-Lookers, rid out of town in Scarlet (as they use to ride out at Midsummer) to meet his Maiesty, with all oure trayned Bands: the Maior rid before his Majesty, carrying the sword, from the Scaffold to the Bishops Pallace, as I am told for truth by them that saw them. The Lord Dillon, and another Irish Lord, a great Rebell, came with his Maiesty into the City: Sir Richard Wilbraham met his Maiesty, and fell down on his knees to him, but his Maiesty would not take notice of him; he and Sir Tho. Delves are committed to the Sheriff, both those Knights declared themselves for the Ordinance of the Militia: It is thought there are Warrants out for the apprehending of many other Gentlemen.

Yesterday, about two hours before his Maiesty came, there came about a Troop of the Lord Strange his horse, and 80 horse loads of Muskets and Bandaliers, and such like Provision, which were laid in our common Hall; and there are 200 more at the Lord Strange his house, that came from Newcastle. The Lord Strange hath delivered those Arms that were taken from papists in Lancashire, to them again, and threatened the Maior of Liverpool to batter down the town if he would not deliver them, it is said there are 5000 coming thorow Lancashire, which came out of the North for his Maiesty. Yesternight, at 9 a clock, the Lord Strange came into this City with one or two Troops of Horse. This day all betwixt the age of 16 and 60 years, of the Trayned Bands of the County, are summoned to appear before his Maiesty at Hoo-heath, two miles from Chester.

Upon Wednesday last the Town of Nantwich were in some fear lest they should be disarmed, and stood upon their Guard,

¹ Sheriff peers are such as have been Sheriffs.

² Leave-Lookers is an office one degree under the Sheriff.

and some ayd came to help them ; but that night following about 1000 horse came thither ; the Lord Cholmley came with them, with the Commission for the Array ; they were to have a parly, the Town would have been delivered, so that they might have their Arms and Liberties ; this while the other side got in at back Gardens, and disarmed all, and plundered some houses : The day following they went to Sir Richard Wilbrahams, and Sir Tho. Delues, and disarmed them, took their horses, and three Cart load of Armour from them, and do further proceed, doing much harm at many other places and houses. It is thought our Maior and Aldermen intend to give the King a sum of money.

Nantwich, Septemb. 24, 1642.

Good Cousin,

I presume you hear of the passages at Nantwich on Wednesday last : The Town, after some preparation for resistance, received the Lord Grandison, and 1100 horse, fearing if they had by force of Arms driven them back, his Maiesty being in those parts, would have revenged the same in a seuere way : Being suffered to come in, he presently disarmed the Town, and Countrey-men there : I for company lost my Rapier.

The day following, they took Arms from Crew hall for 20 men, but did no other violence ; Sir Thomas Delues left his house empty, and much Arms on the hall Table for them ; They dealt more hardly at M. Vernons, taking many other things besides Arms : No violence that I could hear of was offered to any mans person in Nantwich on Wednesday, but to one Radcliff, an honest man, about Wistaston, who was shot into the hand and shoulder, because he was slow in delivering his Musket : They have also been in divers other houses in Bartomley Parish, the Parsons for one ; and what they have done on the other side of the Town I know not. The Gentlemen and Trayned Bands are to attend his Majesty this day at Hatton heath.

The Earl of Essex is expected in Cheshire to-morrow or on

Munday : The face of things in Cheshire is strangely altered ; we did not make our due returns when we had got more quiet times. God in his mercy prevent the effusion of innocent blood : If you have not already bought that little militarie provision I bespake, I think its best to make a stay thereof, for I fear no such thing can be either safely sent hither, or kept here, our Arms must be prayers and tears, for we have not so much as a sword to defend us. God of his mercy keep you, pray for us I beseech you good Sir, as he will do for you, who is your most obliged friend and Cozin.

W : R.

September 23, 1642.

Good Sir,

The latter end of your letter is somewhat comfortable, in that you write there are some Dragons coming into Chester for our relief, but surely they are not come, and now will come too late for we are all plundred and undone ; Nantwich is taken by my Lord Grandisons Army, and the Town disarmed, and many houses plundred who stood for the Parliament and Militia, the owners of them driven to run away for safety of their lives, for they have threatened them much, and after they had disarmed the Town, they came into the Country and disarmed all the great houses : First Sir Thomas Delves, then my Lord Crews, then Sir Richard Wilbrahams, and so all the other Gentlemen round about us, and plundred their houses, they being forced not onely to leave their own houses, but also the Town of Nantwich, and their poor Tennants and Country men, to the mercy of those merciless Villans who will have what they list, nay they will have what we have not for them, or else they will set a Pistoll to our throats and sweare God damne them they will make us swallow a Bullet, some of them are not content to take what Arms they can find, but also Mony, Plate, Linnens, Cloaths, Writings, Meat, Drink, and not therewith content, but steale our horses and maers, drive our women and children into

such feare that they over-run their houses, ly in the fields, ditches and woods, I do not heare of the like cruelty that hath been used any where but in that miserable and bleeding Kingdom of Ireland, we are like to be worse yet, for this day the King is at Chester, and all the whole County from 16 years to 60, is to meet and attend his Majesty, and the Commissioners of Array within half a mile of Chester with all their Arms which they haue left, none dare refuse to come, the malignant party will inform against them, and then they are threatened to be all carried away with my Lord Grandisons Army, the best of it is, if we stay at home we are now their slaves, being naked they will have of us what they list, and do with us what they list, however, I believe we shall be made the Seat of War, and so be utterly ruined and undone, for want of help in time and true hearts amongst our selves, I thank God hitherto I have escaped, yet with much fear and danger, but I must confesse it is more of the goodnesse and mercy of my good God, then of any deseart in me, God grant I may make a good use of it and give him the glory; The secundarie means was, I having acquaintance with some of the Cavaliers, who formerly were some thing beholding unto me, I now find it to be something better with me and some friends of mine then I or they expected, and yet our feares are great when houses nigh unto us have bin plundered twice over, and the owners thereof watched for, as the Cat watcheth for the Mouse, what they would do with them, or how they would use them, God knowes, I pray you pardon my errors in writing, for my feares and distractions are great; I onely desire you to pray for us, and let us heare from you; God knowes how long or short a time we shall heare one from another, the Lord fit us for these ill times, and worser which I much feare; So prayeth your much obliged friend, &c.

To heare the pittyfull shrieking, weeping, and howling of women and children, did more trouble me than any thing else; God grant I never heare the like.

XV.

A true and exact Relation of the Kings Entertainment in the City of Chester, with the Recorders Speech at His entering the City. Sent from a Citizen of note in Chester, on purpose to be printed, to prevent false Copies.

London, printed for C. M. October 4, 1641 [1642].

A True and Exact Relation of the Kings Entertainment in the City of Chester.

The King came to Chester from Salop upon Friday about five of the Clock, but He brought in with him no great company; The Lord Rivers, Lord Cholmley, and Sir Thomas Ashton came each of them with a Troop of horse to wait on his Majestie into the Citie; besides those that came with him, there went out of the Citie to Boughton about forty that had been Sheriffs, and some others on horse-back and foot cloaths, and rid before Him into the Citie, and at the Hony-stayrs there was a Scaffold made for the Aldermen to stand, and receive him (as they had done his Father before time) and they kneeled down, and the Recorder made a Speech of Oration to the King, not such a one as is conceived much to his credit. Your father promised to send you a Copy that you may print it to his shame, for I take it he is so full of malice and pride, and but an ignorant man in his owne profession, and so for present leave him. After the Oration, our Major gave the King the Sword, the Mace, and his Staffe, and the King gave them again to him, and the Major got on his horse and carryed the Sword before the King unto the Bishops Pallace, where he stayed till Tuesday, and departed towards Salop, taking Rexham in his way, and there dined with Master Lloyd, a Lawyer and the Kings Attorney for Flintshire, and thence to Salop where he is.

Our Maior and his Brethren presented Him with 200*l.* in Gold, and to the Prince 100*l.*: It was well taken; but by the

report of some, a greater sum was expected, but those know not our having ; for I perswade myself, before it be collected amongst the Citizens, it will be thought a very great sum. His stay amongst us was very peaceable, and his departure very cheerefull: The Maior and Aldermen brought him out of the Liberty on horse-back: It is reported He left a Garrison amongst us: But he left none, but onely commanded that 100 of the Countrey Souldiers were put into the Castle ; but what we shall have put upon us I know not ; but all those that are not of the Array are observed ; for some of our Country Gentlemen, as Sir Richard Wilbraham, Sir Thomas Delves, M. Manwaring of Badely, M. Wilbraham of Darfot, M. Berkinhead the Premotory and his son, are all commanded to wait upon the King, and went with him to Salop, where they are all yet. And I am informed that some have a Commission to search our houses in Chester, what for, as yet I know not ; but I hear my house is set down for one to be searched ; if they plunder not, I do not fear them. We have great store of souldiers billeted round about our City, what for, I know not ; but they are very unruly, & came into many honest mens houses, specially into Ministers houses, & take away some all and what they please of their goods.

Since the Sabbath day last, Manchester hath been besieged by my Lord Strange, now Lord of Derby ; for his father lieth dead at his little house under St. Johns, but we do not know nor heare that he hath taken the Town as yet, neither they yielded. This is all the passages that we have at present : so I end with my prayer to God to bring all these troubles to an end. So comitting you to God and rest.

Chester, Octob. 1, 1641 [1642].

Mr. Recorder Brierwood's Speech at the Entertainment of the King and Prince at Chester, Sept. 23, 1642.

Most gracious Sovereign ;

We your Majesties most humble and obedient Subjects,



The Maior and Citizens of this Your most ancient City, do in all humility crave leave to take the boldness to bid Your Majestie and our most noble Prince, our hoped Earl of Chester, welcome to this place ; The ancient seat of Your Majestie, and Your Majesties Royall progenitours, Earls of Chester. This ancient City, the Metropolis of this ancient County Palatine, though it hath been sometimes honoured by the residence of senior Earls thereof within it ; yet it hath seldom (ever since) been so highly honoured, as to lodge a King and Prince of this Realm at once within it, though but one night : The honour, then, with the accesses of Your Royall person, and of the person of our noble Prince at this time unto this City doth bring such, that it doth transcend all former of this kind, and doth fill our hearts at once with a great deal of joy and security : For we are in great fears in regard of the Rebellion in Ireland ; as also, in regard of a Malignant party that hath lately appeared amongst us : But we are as sensible, that Your Majesties presence expells all dangers, and renders us secure from the dangers abroad, and distractions at home : And it is, most mighty King, the satisfaction of all our hearts, that Your Majestie hath already sufficiently testified to all the world, Your Majesties indeered love unto all Your Subjects, and to the Protestant Religion, whereof Your Majestie is justly stiled The Great Defender ; and we in this place, in thankfullnesse to the same, will be ever ready to adventure our Lives and Fortunes for the defence of Your Majestie, in whose safety rested onely our security.

And Mr. Maior of this City humbly. prostrate upon his knees, doth according to his duty, surrender and yield up to Your excellent Majestie all the Authority and Iurisdiction he holdeth under Your Majestie, and with it the Sword of this City, the Ensign thereof : And he and we all of this City shall ever pray, Long live King Charles victorious over all His Enemies.

XVI.

His Majesties Demands and Propositions propounded by His Majesty, to the Major, Knights, and Gentry: To the City of Chester, accompanied with the Prince, Sir Edward Dering, and 2 Regiments of Horse and Foote, together with their inditious answer thereunto. Likewise the Prince his desire to the Earle of Essex, with the true description of the Bataile fought by the trained Band of Chester, and the Earle of Newcastle, Lord Rivers, Earle of Bristoll, and the Earle of Lindsey, who came to take possession of the said City, September 26, with the Number of them that were Slaine on both sides. As it was Sent in a Letter from a Gentleman of note, to a speciall friend of his in London.

London: Printed for Thomas Rider, Sept. 29, 1642.

The Kings Majesties Demands, and Propositions, propounded by His Majesty, to the Major, Knights, and Gentry, to the City of Chester, Sept. 24, 1642.

Upon Satterday last, His Majesty with-drew Himselfe from Shrewsbury, and tooke His journey towards Chester, accompanied with the Prince and the Duke of Lenox his troope, and presently after came the Lord Chomleyes Regiment, together with 22 peeces of Ordnance, when His Majesty came to the Gates of the City he propounded these ensuing propositions to the Knights and Gentry that were within the City, Viz.

1. That His Majesty out of the Princely care and affection that he bore to this City of Chester, hath and is Resolved to make it his cheife place of Residence, and therefore desires the Knights and Gentry that are inhabitants thereof to give him admittance.

2. That since his comming from London he could find no place so conveneient and meet to entertaine His Royall Person and posterity, as Chester, and that he hoped that they would prove as loyall to him as he hath been mercifull unto them.

3. That his desire is, That they would bee pleased to resigne up the Magazine to his royall Majesty, and withall to deliver the keyes of the Gates of that City, and that they would condescend unto these his Demands, as to let the Trained Bands to goe alone with him towards Shrewesbury, but unto these Propositions and Demands of His Majesty they would by no means condescend, alleadging that if the trained bands were gone and the Magazine resigned up, wherein consisteth the strength of the county, they should be left naked and exposed to the hazard of what dangers might befall in these troublesome times, and so would not by any meanes give consent to those his requests.

A Coppy of the Letter.

Worthy Sir,

After my best respects recommended unto you and to my loving Cozen your wife, according to your desire and expectation, I emboldened myselfe to write unto you, the newest occurrences that have happened in these parts, viz. Upon the 25 of this instant moneth of Sept. the Lord Strange and the Earle of Lindsey, came to the City of Worcester, with about the number of some 600 Mountiners, togeather with divers others of the ragged regiment, acounted and esteemed of us, the scume of the Northern Counties, they were also accompanied with the Lord Rivers, the Earle of Newcastle, and the Earle of Bristoll; and came towards the City of Chester, in a Warlike manner, with about 1300 Horse and foote, but they found there as Noble and undaunted spirits as they have done in other places. For at their first approach neere unto the City, the Earle of Lindsey rode foremost upon a faire and comely Steed, which made some of the inhabitants of the City of Chester thirst after him, to bring him a little lower, and indeed happily might it have beene so, had he not retreated so suddenly, for no sooner had he given the onset upon the Towne, but he fell backe, then the Earle

Rivers, with his Venomous spleen and envy brought up his foote, thinking to have brought his Divillish desires to perfection, and to have fired the Towne with wild-fire, but by Gods providence and helping hand, all their hopes were frustrated, and their devices and Plots could take no effect, for their successe was as bad as their causes, and well worse, these Commissioners of Array having performed what they could, and found all was but labour in vaine, they about 2 of the cloke in the afternoon, withdrew their forces from Chester and march towards the borders of Wales, and it is supposed to geather more power and strength, but all this while the inhabitants of Chester and the Trained bands tooke example by the men of Coventry, Resolving either to loose their Lives, in the defence of the King and Parliament, and Gods true religion, then to yield and lye at the mercy of the Enemy, (the hell bred Cavaleers). There are now some forces come from London to us, which do much encourage the adjoyning Counties, for since their comming, divers of the Cavaleers have revolted from his Majesty, and have profered their Service to us.

Likewise from the adjoyning Counties they come in dayly, but this City stands in much hazard and danger, for the aforementioned crew, hath vowed revenge upon us, Sir William Berington doth very good Service here, and is a great encourage to all the young Souldiers.

It is credibly reported that the Lord Brookes hath given the Cavaleers a great overthrow in Shropshire or else neere Worcester, and hath killed many of them, the Earle of Essex is now at Worcester, with 22000 men, and hath had some opposition there by the Cavaleers, who have entrenched themselves about the said City, but as yet hath not made any attempt against the City, by reason that the Kings Majesty is resolved to meete him there, and to treat upon these present affaires, His Majesty is now going from Worcester towards Chester, but it is thought he will returne very suddenly againe, this weeke will be a weeke of some sorrow or joy, for both Armies are resolved to meete.

XVII.

To the Kings Most Excellent Majesty. The humble gratulation : and Petition of the trained bands, and freeholders, and others the Gentry, and Communalty of the County Palatine of Chester, whose names are under-written. Delivered upon Hoole-Heath, by the trayned bands, a Coppie of the same being hung upon the top of every colours ; subscribed by the severall companies, and so presented to the King.

London : Printed for M. T. 1642.

Your Petitioners,

With inexpressable joy of heart doe acknowledge and render all humble thanks, for this great pledge of your Majesties favour, and affection towards this Countrey, that in this time of so much trouble and distraction, you have revived their dejected spirits with the reall comfort of your Royall presence, and intrusted Your sacred Person amongst them. And Your Majesties most loyall and affectionate Subjects, knowing there is no Seed so pure amongst which spring not up some tares, they humbly pray that by your Princely Wisedome and Providence, they may bee secured from the just jealousies of such malignant Persons amongst them, who envying the peace of the Country, they have too much cause to feare, waite but for an opportunity to make spoile of them, whiles they with such fidelity and diligence endeavour your defence, as becomes their duties. And though they cannot but with great regret and sorrow of heart apprehend, that notwithstanding all those unexampled acts of justice, mercy, and grace, wherewith you have for ever obliged that Nation and People, in the greatest bonds of gratitude, ever put by Prince upon his Subjects, that there should still remaine any cause, or shadow of feare and jealousies amongst any of Your Subjects, pretending loyalty or gratitude, much more that there should be actuall levying of Armes, and waging of warre within this Nation, to the barbarous assascination and ruine of one another.

Yet since divers of our fellow Subjects are destroyed, slaine, and plundered, by those forces, under pretence of public good, and that Your Majesty hath thought fit to disavow Your assent to such leavyes, to prohibite them by your Proclamations, and to declare them raised against Your Sacred Person, and to take away Your Life, we being no Judges of the grounds of such jealousies as should justly occasion those armes. And declaring to all the world that wee see no cause for them, doe humbly pray, that whiles Your Majesty is amongst us, you will bee pleased to call before you the Collectors of such moneyes as have beene levied upon this County, under pretence of releife of Ireland, (whose miseries we see daily increase) to give account in whose hands the same remaines, or to whom transmitted, that by your piety and providence it may bee so disposed, that the right end may not bee abused, nor the Subjects owne moneyes, inverted against them to their owne ruine, whiles they are employed in Your defence, who as they are bound by their oaths of Supremacy, Allegiance, and the late Protestation, are ready with their lives, fortunes and utmost power, to assist and defend Your Sacred Majesty, against all conspiracies, power, and attempt whatsoever, made or to be made against Your Royall Person, Crowne, and Dignity, or any of Your Princely issue, whose long, peaceable, and prosperous raigne, over all your three Kingdomes, in your full rights, power and glory, your Petitioners unanimously pray God to continue.

XVIII.

The King's Order to the Mayor and Aldermen of Chester.

These are to will and require you and euery of you, takinge vnto you or euery of you the Assistance of the Sherriffs of Our Citty of Chester, and such other Power of Our sayd Citty as you the sayd Maior thereof, Earle of Darby, Earl Rivers,

Lo: viscount Cholmondeley, Robert Brerewood, Recorder, William Gamull, Charles Walley and Thomas Thropp, Aldermen of our sayd Citty, or euery of you shall thinke meete, as soone as conveniently you may to search the seuerall Houses of S'r William Brereton, Baronett, William Edwards, Alderman, and Thomas Aldersey, Alderman, the Red Lyon and the Golden Lyon, scituate in Our sayd Citty, Wherein you or euery of you shall suspect to bee any Armes or Amunition intended to be vsed against vs or any Person or Persons deriving Authority from vs, or against any Our louing subjects: And all such armes and Amunition that you or euery of you shall find vpon yo'r sayd search, to seize and take into yo'r Custodies for the vse of vs, to be disposed of as Wee shall appoint.

Giuen at Our Court att Chester this 26th of September in the Eighteenth yeare of Our Raigne. (1642.)

To our trusty and Welbeloued Thomas Couper, Maior of Our Citty of Chester, and to Our right trusty and right welbeloued Cosins, James Earle of Darby and John Earle Rivers, and to Our right trusty and welbeloued Robert Lord Viscount Cholmondeley, and to Our trusty and welbeloued Robert Brerewood, Recorder, William Gamul, Charles Walley and Thomas Thropp, Aldermen of Our Citty of Chester, and to all any or euery of them.

XIX.

A true and exact Relation of the Proceedings of His Majesties Army in Cheshire. Together with what hath happened to the late Lord Strange now Earl of Derby, before Manchester.

London: Printed for M. Batt, Octob. 5, 1642.

Chester, Octob. 1, 1642.

We are here in great fears; 260 horse loads of Arms are come



hither out of the North, & they tell us of 5000 men that will come out of Lancashire, and the parts adjacent, besides what Cheshire and these parts of Wales will afford: The Lord Cholmley sets out 200 Foot, and 20 Horse. The Lord Grandison, with 200 Horse, hath possest himself of Nantwich for the King, and hath billeted his Troops in the Town, who have since their entrance, plundered divers houses of well-affected men in the Town and Country, which hath put the people round about into such a fear, that many flie from the country to the city, & take houses, and carry their best goods thither; I my self am come this last week to live in Chester, and have left my servants to look to businesse in the Country. Since my coming hither, there were 200 souldiers billeted in our little village, and 13 of them appointed to my house, who, I thank God, departed without doing any more hurt, than what victualls they eat, which they took in an orderly manner: His Majesty departed Chester on Wednesday, and went hence by Wrexham to Shrewsbury, whence he came: At his departure from us, he put 100 men for a Garrison into the Castle, and commanded Sir Thomas Delves, Sir Richard Wilbraham, M. Philip Manwaring of Badely, and M. Berkind the Pronotary, and his son, to wait upon His Majesty, and to be confined to Court. The same day the King went, Captain Salisbury and his men did burn Sir William Bruertons Decoy; and the Kings Souldiers in all places where they come, grow very insolent, and do much spoyl and mischief; the Commissioners of Array by the Kings coming hither are much strengthened in these parts, for the Aforesaid men which the King hath taken away with him; were the chief of those that attempted to put the Militia in execution. The report is here, that the King likes the City so well, he intends shortly to return and winter with us. My Lord Strange, now Earl of Derby (for on Munday last his father died here in Chester) is gone with great Forces against Manchester, who have fortified themselves, and resolve to keep him out with all the might they can; they have three pieces of Ordnance; my Lord Strange hath six

Pieces ; Bullets have been exchanged on both sides, and two of my Lords men slain, and some Commanders ; which hath so far incensed him, that he is resolved to have the Town, or to die before it. The times are like to be miserable, God grant a happy Reconcilement.

XX.

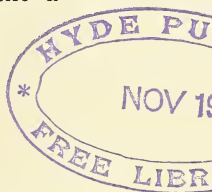
Neutrality condemned, by declaring the Reasons why the Deputy-Lieutenants, instructed by the Parliament for Cheshire, cannot agree to the Treaty of Pacification made by some of that County: At Bunbery, December 23, 1642. And may serve to prevent the like in other Counties.

London. Printed for *Henry Overton*, and are to be sold at his shop in Pope-Head-Alley, December 6, (*sic*) 1642.

An Agreement made for a pacification, and settling the peace of the said County.

Reason.

Agreements and pacifications amongst men, are not alwayes the Characters of a good cause, nor inseparably incident to good intentions, no more than external peace is an infallible marke of the truest Church ; Doe we not finde Abraham and Lot, Paul and Barnabas contending, and divisions 'twixt the nearest relations, occasioned even by the Prince and Gospell of peace, when in the meane time we see Simeon and Levi, *Fratres in malo*, the Rulers taking Councell, Sanballat and Tobiah conspiring together, and the Jews unanimously crying out, *Crucifige* ; and all against our Saviour and his living Temples : Peace therefore, in itselfe is like riches, and other goods of Gods left hand, which are neither in themselves good nor bad, nor to be absolutely desired or refused, but are prout est utentis animus.



Poscimus.	{	First pure, then peaceable.	James 3, 17.
		Righteousnesse and Peace.	Psal. 85, 10.
		Words of Peace and Truth.	Isa. 39, 8.
		Love the Truth and Peace.	Zach. 8, 19.
		A peaceable life in all godlinesse.	1 Tim. 2, 2.
Sic Pacem omnes,			
Pellimus.	{	By peace he shall destroy many.	Dan. 8, 25.
		The blood of war in peace.	1 King 2, 5.
		Pax hominis sine pace Numinis.	

Therefore truth must give Law to peace, and heaven to earth, this being in grace as well as Nature subservient to the motions and directions of that : And though there will ever some be found, who by their malice and subtle insinuations, endeavour to intercept those celestially influences : yet what doe they but alatrare lunam ? For righteousnesse will still looke downe from heaven, Et peraget cursus surda Diana Suos.

But that Agreement especially is the furthest off from being the badge, either of a good cause or meaning, which aimes at, and produceth a Neutrality : It is observable that things of the Neuter Gender are without life ; and where either side is for God, it argues small life in him, that is, at that time, neither hot nor cold, neither for God nor Baal. Batts are Beasts when they are upon the earth, and Birds when in the ayre, but these men are altogether unresolved how to name themselves ; in a time of Peace they can be content, like the Planet Mercury, ever to follow the motion of that starre to which they are conjoyned, but in dayes of triall this Proteus cannot hide himselfe under the variety of shapes, and therefore as much as a created power can doe, he strives to annihilate his former being, and could be content to be an Hermophradite, or some Monster of men, but that even in these there is a prevailing forme. Whilst he lives he strives to turne things necessary to *ἀδιαφορα* and 'twixt things diametrically opposed, to phancie, that there are *οὐδετερα* he tacitly pleades for the Chimæra of Purgatory by his indifference,

more then all the Arguments of the Sorbonists, and therefore when he dies, there is some hope the Pope will Cannonize his soule for the goode hee hath done to the Catholike Cause, in that wherein it hath most neede of helpe, and that the Conclave will order that his body may remaine Like Mahomets tombe at Mecha, or like that of Erasmus, all in medio.

It is Agreed.

Reason.

For whom is it so agreed? themselves onely that subscribed? themselves with the rest of the Commissioners and Deputy Lieutenants? the Countrey? the neighbour Countries ready to imbrace an Association? or the Parliament? If for themselves their conclusions are but personall and oblige no further: if for themselves with the rest of the Commissioners and Deputy Lieutenants, where and when was that authority deligated from all or any of those absent to them that were present? or if so, by what power was it so deligated? Instruments of all sorts, animate, as well as inanimate, having either no motion, or to none effect, without the concurrence or impulsion of their principall agent: if for the Countrey, where did they authorize them, especially that part of it inconsulted withall? Or when did the Countrey give either an expresse or implicite consent, that these alone, either to that, or to any other purpose should be their body representative? If for the neighbour Counties, certainly without their privity, and if no privity, no obligation; for who can imagine them so stupid as to consent to that, which is utterly destructive to their designes, especially Manchester which hath of late better merited that name, than it did by resisting (long since) the Danes, will, without the great mercy of God, by this meanes be exposed to the rapine and violence of her implacable Nimrods. If for the Parliament, their Commission, or some Order from thence will show it: but it is very probable that they had thence, neither any such Commission nor Order; for that 1. None of their Members in

that County were parties to this agreement. 2. The Parliament hath not used to tolerate any compounding with Delinquents, and men by Publike Vote excluded from them. 3. By the Declaration of both Houses, of the 4 of October last they have declared their resolution against such a Neutrality in the case of Yorkshire, which had more colour in it, for that the Lord Fairefax (since made Lord Generall in the North of the Parliaments forces, under his Excellencie the Earle of Essex) and Master Bellasis, the two Knights for the Shire, were the maine parties to that agreement. 4. The secret plot of this, was, to prevent the necessary Association of the neighbour Counties, which the promoters hereof, knew to be in agitation, by vertue of the authority of both Houses, and if effected, would soone have defaced the glory of their Regiments. 5. This doth what in it lies to suspend the execution of the Ordinance of the Militia, and the raising of moneys upon the Propositions, declared by both Houses to be according to Law, and very necessary at this time for the preservation of the peace and safety of the Kingdome, and to be put in execution in that County. 6. Both the said Houses by their Declaration of the 4 of December last, have authorized divers persons to receive and collect monies, plate, and horses from severall persons within the city of London, for the securing and releiving of that County, against all power that is, or shall be raised therein, against the Parliament and proceedings thereof, upon which, severall summes are already received. And 7 Commissions have been lately granted to Sir William Brereton, one of their Members, and to divers Officers, subordinate to him, for their accesse to that County. There are so many judgements of the supreme Court of Judicature, against this ungrounded and unjustifiable Neutrality.

But by what meanes is it so agreed? The well-affected of this County to the proceedings of Parliament, being jealous of the safety of their Religion, Lawes and Liberties, and withall weary of their Taskmasters, resolved to get up and be doing,

and to couch no longer like Issachar, betwixt their burdens. In number and strength they presently exceed their adversaries, which make their opposers first flie for refuge to Chester, and being there, for policy, to the Bishops Palace, at the desire no doubt of the Popish party, who conceited that what came from thence was e Cathedra, and not capable of error or miscarriage: But this Sanadrim being there convened, at first conclude, that in regard the government of the City was not in a safe hand for their designe, a new Governour must be placed, paramount the Maior, with liberty onely reserved to him to carry his white staffe, the Sword being to sleepe a while behind the Ephod: and had not the Maior been both couragious and religious, doubtlesse there had been the revolution of that Platonicke yeare, wherein even the Magesteriall staffe of that City was extorted from the hands of their chiefe Magistrate, and himselfe a while made subject to a Subject. But what thinkes the Recorder (active also at this meeting) will by this meanes become of the City Charter? I beleeve his zeale to promote the designe, and by that himselfe, for the present made him become Obliviscor, or else they perswaded him, they could as easily procure a new Charter, as they could a Letter from his Maiesty to declare his resolution of not sending Forces into that Countrey. No sooner had the new Governour taken possession of his place, but some of the people wondering to see another Sun in their Meridian, were afraid it might portend some fatality to their famous City, which their Recorder once told them was more ancient then the Moone. Others more astronomically, informe them, it is but a Parelus, a Comet, which would soon vanish: but such as lived within the droppings of the Cathedrall, admired to see something appeare which they had so long expected from the East, and they adore this Rising Sun. The people being thus divided, occasion is given (for prevention of uproares) to call another Councell, at which there is a new apparition, Dux foemina facti, The lady Cholmeley is the Chiefe of the Councell, expecting perhaps, now the Queene's Standard and Army are approaching,

by her activity, to merit a Commanders place abroad, as she hath a long time done at home : at last it is concluded, that all Forces should be called in, that could be procured to assist the Array, and then (untill time had made them more able) a tender of peace should be made to some of the most moderate gentlemen for the Militia, which after being done, produced these following Articles, under whose Olive branches, I feare by searching, will be found to lurk somewhat of dangerous consequence.

Article 1.

That there be an absolute cessation of Armes from henceforth within this County, and no Armes to be taken up to offend one another, but by the consent of the King and both Houses of Parliament, unlesse it be to resist Forces brought into the County.

Reason 1.

This is to prescribe rules to them from whom you are to receive them ; but suppose these unhappy differences 'twixt his Majesty and the Parliament doe continue, it must be granted by the Neutralist (unlesse he be a Sceptique in his opinion, as well as in his resolution) that this war is just on one side, and that himselfe is therein involved. What peace then is this? Unnaturall peace, whilst the body of the Kingdome is in danger, so to provide for one member, as totally to neglect the rest, Menenius Agrippa will tell them, that whilst the members of the body conspired to famish the belly, they themselves suffered. Uncharitable peace, to looke on, and not to afford your helping hand to stay the downfall of a tottering Kingdome, which may be the sooner ruined by your security ; how can the Pilote thinke to save his Cabbin, when the Ship is sinking ; companions in peace ought to be so in war, unlesse there be some just exemption, so much of the writ of Shipmoney being good Law, Quod omnes tangit, per omnes debet supportari : (but by the consent of King, and both Houses of Parliament) a

flattering savant, as if so soone as King and both Houses agreed to command one act, there would not be an immediate cessation of all hostility. But it seemes Armes may still be taken up to resist Forces sent thither, if not sent from his Majesty and both Houses. Unequall peace. The Parliament was sending downe Forces, to put their Ordinance of Militia in execution, and to settle the peace of that County, his Majesty hath sent for Forces from thence to his Winter garrison to oppose his Parliament, yet by this Article the one must be hindered from entring, but not the other from issuing forth.

Article 2.

That all but 200 of either side be disbanded to-morrow, being Saturday, and upon Munday all the rest upon both sides, both horse and foote.

Reason 2.

What needs so much haste? Are any of the family of the Hastings amongst you? that many thousands of the Parliaments Forces must needs be as soone disbanded, as so many hundreds on the other side? Ought you not to have expected a moderate dissolution from the same Sun that did exhale you, rather than to have fallen away by sudden spouts, as the raine useth to doe in the Indies? which if you had expected, certainly you had not gone up the hill, and so soone come downe again, but had required the great charges of your uniting, either by settling the Militia, suppressing the Commission of Array long since declared to be illegal by the highest Court, raising of Money, Plate, and Horses upon the Propositions, relieving of Manchester, which hath long since cryed like those of Macedonia to Paul, Come over and help us, or at least would have stayed till you had given, and received some intelligence, to, and from the Parliament, or Sir William Brereton your worthy Patriot, of whom let it suffice to say, that though he hath not had the successe of Fabius, by delay to doe his



Countrey service, yet whoever well considers the manner of raising and maintaining his Troope, being much by his owne charge and industry, and the difficulty of procuring monies, ammunication, Officers, and Commissions, by one man alone, for he hath had none in Parliament to assist him therein, will conclude his delay was not through his owne defaulte: Can this agreement then made without aim, oblige him, or render his Commission invallid? That were to exercise a power paramount the Parliament, in whose name he comes.

Article 3.

That all prisoners on both sides be released, &c.

Reason 3.

Quo warranto? For both the Deputy Lieutenants, and Commissioners of Array imprison none, but by vertue, or colour of some authority derived unto them from King or Parliament, and then can they not (having no such power in their Commissions) discharge without Law those that are in custodia legis.

Article 4.

That the fortifications at Chester, Namptwich, Northwich, Stopford, Knutsford, or any other Towne, in Cheshire, lately made by either party, be speedily demolished.

Reason 4.

This is still to advance the pretended unlimited power of the Commissioners of Array, and to suppress the advantages, the Parliament, and well affected of the Countrey, might speedily have received, by the helpe of the Army, there lately on foot, and by their garrisons, which were so considerable, that upon the sudden approach of Commanders, and Ammunition, they might easily have settled that County, for the Parliament, have sent auxiliaries into Lancashire, which had beene but *Lex talionis*, couped up the Eagle in his nest, and prevented his further resolutions.

Article 5.

That goods, and Armes, taken on both sides, be in specie forthwith restored, and for any other that are taken out of the County, it is promised on both parts, that since the benefit of this pacification redounds to the County, that they will use their utmost endeavours for a joynt contribution of the County, towards the satisfaction of the owners.

Reason 5.

This Article would tacitly raise an imputation upon the Parliaments party in that County, at if they had pillaged and spoyled any there of their goods; When as *Nulli nec equos, nulli rapuere juvenecas*. But can the Commissioners of Array and their party boast herein? No, if they do, the disarming the Trained Bands, the late barbarour and inhumane plundering of Torperley, Utkington, Stapleford, and other Adjacent places, even during, & since this Treaty by Colonell Hastings, the Earle Rivers, and especially the Lord Cholmleys Troopes, and the perfidious spoyling of Namptwich, heretofore by the Lord Grandison, and his troopes will give them the lie; though what was gotten there by breach of Covenant, proved to that Lord, but *Equus Sejanus*, or as the gold of Tholosse, when he lost that and more at Winchester; but because these goods are by that and other meanes, gone through so many hands and cannot be restored in specie, an endeavour must be used, that the County may contribute towards the owners satisfaction, but what will follow upon that improbable contribution? The Commissioners of Array, being the Promoters of this Agreement, thinke thereby to endear themselves with all those who shall reape the benefit of that contribution, and by that meanes strengthen their party and the County, against the Kings next comming towards Chester, whither it is conceived his Majesty hath *animum revertendi*, if he remove from Oxford, and then if desolation come, as in other Counties where hath bin Neutrallity it hath done, thank your selves. But upon what ground will this

contribution be made? because this pacification is for the benefit of the County? I wish it may prove so, but 'tis not so, because its so said; if my neighbours House burne, mine owne will the sooner kindle by my security; the best way in that case to prevent the ruine of thine owne, is to be active in quenching thy neighbours fire; and he is a sluggard indeed, that will choose rather to lye still upon his hard bed, then rise to have it made the softer; however, he is much mistaken that thinkes he may like an Anchorite in his Cell abstracte himselfe, from the publike condition of the places and Kingdomes wherein he lives. A man may not by the Lawes of man, as well as of God, do what he will with himselfe: He that voluntarily burns his owne house, or cuts off his owne arme may be punished for it, because the Commonwealth hath an interest in the persons and habitations of men.

Article 6.

That the Lords and Gentlemen Commissioners of Array, before the 8 day of January next, procure from His Majesty a Letter, thereby declaring, that in regard peace is made in that County, he would send no Forces into it, and if any other person shall contrary to the Declaration bring Forces into the County (passage for Forces without doing any Hostile act onely excepted) the said Lords and Gentlemen will joyne to resist them: and if any Forces, without the consent of the King, and both Houses of Parliament shall come into this County, (a passage for Forces without any Hostile act onely excepted) The said Gentlemen Deputy Lieutenants will joyne to resist them, and use their utmost endeavours therein.

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Reason 6.

This is all the profit the County seemes to receive by these Articles, and this is in fieri too, not in facto, so that for an uncertaine contingent benefit, perhaps never to be obtained, the Parliaments Forces must be presently disbanded; And who can be induced easily to beleieve that His Majesty will issue

forth such a Declaration for the good of the Parliament Party, especially if himselfe shall be minded to returne into Cheshire, when the Parliament themselves have so often received denials from His Majesty to their humble Petitions, and offers, to disband, so that His Majesty would be pleased to returne to them with His Royall not Martiall Guard. And if the King deny so to declare, then doth the consideration which moved the Parliaments Party here to disband, totally faile. But strange presumption! thus peremptorily to make stipulations to procure His Majestie then unconsulted withall, to declare such an act in terminie, and before such a time: the Law and Parliament assume but a directive, no coactive power over Sovereignty, and yet hitherto they are not able to reduce it to act: and yet it seems these presume of that power, that whether it be convenient for His Majesty or no, or whether His Majesty shall so please to apprehend it, yet it must be done, or else this Article, and the rest, are but meer delusions, which is the rather to be supposed; but unlesse the King please so to declare, His Majestie may bring in or send thither what Forces he please, without consent of both Houses, but so cannot the Parliament by this Article, nor any of their adherents in their greatest extremity, no liberty of declaring being left to them. If Israel then should flie before the Egyptians, and Cheshire appeare before them as a red Sea, and being bound up by this sophistry, could not without danger entertaine them, otherwise then like vagabonds to give them a passe; what inhumanity were this! but this liberty of passage must needs be inserted, lest the Antiparliamentary forces in the North might otherwise be stopt from going this way towards his Maiestie, for forces without doing any hostile Act, may passe, though by the first Article, all forces brought into the County, were to be resisted; what is meant then by an Hostile act, is to bring Delinquents to justice an hostile Act; if that have more violence in it than usual, Delinquents may thank themselves, whose flight argues their guilt, and have of late beene of that

fleight and power, that they were not otherwise attachable, and then to deny the Parliament power to put their Orders in execution, is to abridge them of that which the meanest Court inioyes, by which meanes, instead of being venerable, it would become of small esteeme.

Article 7.

In regard that by the blessing of God, there is like to be peace in this County, if this Agreement be observed; It is agreed that the Commissioners of Array, shall not further put the Commission of Array in execution nor the Gentlemen nominated Deputy Lieutenants, the Ordinance for the Militia.

Reason 7.

Such a Peace as may be crowned with the blessing of God, is not only hoped but prayed for, but that will not be by monopolizing Peace, or by giving it an untimely birth: a conclusion by such mediums is both illegall and unnaturall: but if a lasting Peace were intended to be observed, what meant those butcherly proceedings of the Commissioners agents, though by their own, especially the Lord Cholmleys privity at Torperley & the other places before mentioned, even during, and after the Treaty (he suffering most, that was most religious) and when restitution was demanded of some of the Commissioners according to the Articles, the remedy proved worse than the disease, before, they left their goods, but when they complained, some scarce escaped with their lives, by the danger of their Battle-axes: so that now (*salva fide*) the parties themselves to this agreement are at liberty, and after this Parenthesis of time may continue their former Resolutions. For the rest of the Article, the words run paralell, but not the matter: the Ordinance for the Militia being supported, not onely by the judgement and command of that Court from which there is no appeale, but also by the supream law, viz: *Salus populi*, and the Commission of Array in the meane time is condemned by the one, as destructive to the other.

Article 8.

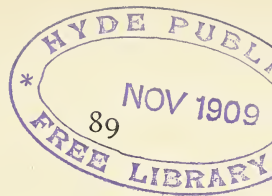
And lastly, All the said parties doe agree, and promise each to other in the word of a Gentleman, and as they desire to prosper, that as well they themselves, as also their friends, tenants, and servants, and all others in whom they have any interest, shall as much as in them lie performe this Agreement ; And it is further desired, that all the said parties joyne in a Petition to His Majestie, and both Houses of Parliament, for putting an end to the great distractions and miseries fallen upon the Kingdome, by making a speedy Peace. And it is agreed that Sir George Booth, and all others in the County, who have appeared, either as Commissioners of Array, or as Deputy Lieutenants, by reason of the Ordinance of Parliament, shall with all convenient speed subscribe this Agreement.

Robert Milmorre.	William Marbury.
Orlando Bridgeman	Henry Mainwaring.

Reason 8.

The Gentlemen that did subscribe, are not so much blame-worthy, being men of temperate spirits, and questionlesse true lovers of their County, as those that did by importunate solicitations perswade them to it, Sic notus Ulisses? did their former advice for Neutralitie so advantage the County (the Kings forces being by that meanes invited thither) that it must prevail for the same purpose again? I wish that by this meanes the damage to the Countrey may not be doubled, as their advice hath beene. But admitting the Commissioners for the Array have for their parts hitherto observed this Agreement, must not then the subscribers for the Militia observe it likewise, to keep both their honour and faith inviolable? for Sir George Booth and the rest refuse it. Their generall Protestation to God, which I am sure they have taken, being inconsistent with the private pacts of men, renders these of no force, but looseth no power it self, nor lies it in the power of any created being, to performe a voide agreement, as this must

needs be, being repugnant to that publique vow to God, and to the Parliamentary power expressed as well therein, as in all their aforementioned resolutions; And in such a Parliament certainly, called and continued according to Law, in case of the Kings Voluntary desertion, and of the Kingdoms safety, doth the supream power reside, else policy should come short of nature in not fencing against that which would prove both dangerous and destructive to itselfe; nor is it breach of Covenant or losse of Honour to retract that which is, either before the doing of it, contrary to the command of that great Assembly, or being done, is by them declared illegall: hath not the Lord Fairefaxe more eternized his name by his wisdom and valour, since his retracting the like subscription then ever before? *Quod fecit consulto, consultius revocavit.* But all must be salved by joyning in a Petition for Peace: It is greater pitty faire weather should ever doe harme, or that peace should be unseasonable, but take heed lest under the notion of Peace, importing a Neutrality, or by drawing Articles against the expresse Orders of Parliament, you draw yourselves, and the rest of the Countrey who have beene for the King and Parliament into a misterious conspiracie against both: but if you will either make or Petition for Peace; let it be for God and your Lawes, and for King and Parliament, whom both have united, and since necessity and charity call for it, it is well hoped that the Subscribers, and many of the Commissioners in that County will joyne with the Parliaments party (as brethren, though fallen out use to doe) against the common Adversary, which is now the Army of Papists in divers parts of the Kingdome, that in the North, having in the head of it the Catholike Standard: Such a peace is blessed, and *Beati pacifici*, the Motto of such Peace-makers.



XXI.

The Unfaithfulnesse of the Cavaliers and Commissioners of Array in keeping their Covenants. By which may be discerned the issue of all future treaties and agreements with them; fully discovered in a true Narration of the inhumaine Carriages of the Earle Rivers, Lord Cholmondeley, Collonell Hastings, and their partie during the Treatie of pacification in Cheshire, and after it was concluded; In their plundering at Torpley, and the parts adjacent.

Psal. 120. 7.

My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.

I am for peace, but when I speake, they are for warre.

London: Printed for *Thomas Underhill*, January 11, 1643[-4].

The Unfaithfulnesse of the Cavaliers and Commissioners of Array in keeping their Covenants.

The Commissioners of Array for the Countie Palatine of Chester, having a long time oppressed the Countrey by taking from them their armes, horses, money and other things, as also by compelling the Inhabitants betwixt 16 and 60 years of age, frequently to meet at places by them appointed under great penalties, ceasing the whole Countie at their owne pleasure very deeply, distrained the goods, and imprisoned their persons who refused to pay their illegall taxations, and some they compelled by their warrants upon paine of deathe to guard their goods and houses, to whom they neither allowed wages, nor necessities for their sustenance.

These rigid courses drave many out of the Countie, caused others to hide themselves in obscure places, and not a few to sell off their goods, to their great disadvantage, rather than to reserve them to be pillaged by these Catterpillars.

But at last some gentlemen of generous spirits, hating this servile condition, began to raise up the Countrey into a body for their just defence: this course proved successefull every way;

for then many thousands discovered themselves which way their hearts inclined, who formerly durst not appeare for the Militia : the Commissioners of Array were forsaken of their owne Tenants, over whom they had cruelly tyrannized, every man durst complaine of his wrongs sustained, and the body of the Countie in a short time grew so vast, that they possest themselves of divers Townes most considerable for the securing of themselves and the whole Countie: Nantwich was the chiefe, and there was their Randesvous.

This struck such terror into the hearts of the Array, that they fled to the City of Chester for sanctuary, after Master Bridgeman the Vicechamberlaine and his partie had surprised it by subtiltie, to speake the best of it. Thither then they brought their goods and armes, and about 4 or 500 Souldiers to guard them, most of which they furnisht with horses and armes, out of the pillage taken from the Countie. This invited many Malignants thither out of many other Counties, who brought with them their treasures and some armes.

Master Bridgeman tooke upon him the government of the Citie, which the soft-spirited Alderman durst not contradict, but seemed thankfully to accept of his varnisht motions, tending to the disfranchising of the Citie; that which imboldned him thereunto was the malignant partie that brought him in, which was the Recorder, the two Gamuls, and Master Throp: he then sent forth his Warrants, ordered the watch, imprisoned and enlarged at his pleasure: In a word, he was as imperious as the Bishop his father amongst the Ministers, upon the making of the late Cannons: yet he permitted Mr. Maior to carry his white staffe, and the Aldermen to meet to little purpose, lest otherwise they should ring the fier-bell.

The counsell for the managing of this new government was holden at the palace, where the Bishop, his sonne, and the Lord Kilmurrey were chiefe, but the Lady Cholmondeley was to hold up all, without whome nothing could passe. These were the devisers, but Sir Edward Savage and other papisticall and malignant persons were expeditious to execute.

But things stuck not here long, for when they perceived the Citizens offended at the usurpations of their new Governour, the hearts of their Souldiers turned against them, who were forced thither and wanted pay ; also considering that all their treasures, together with their persons, coop't up in a place slenderly secur'd, did invite the adversary to look after so great a prize, and knowing the Countrey was preparing to assault the Citie, and that besides that vast body of chased men (of which nere 2000 were well armed) they were in daily expectation of ayde from the Parliament, and having Manchester-men (who are the terror of the malignants in Lancashire and Cheshire) readie at a call, and knowing that the best which could come of it on their part, was to loose their cattle, corne and hay, at their owne houses, which lay open to the will of the oppressed Countie, they were very solicitous for a pacification, betwixt them and the deputie-Lieutenants, hoping that accommodation might extend to the whole Countie.

Sir Richard Wilbraham and Master Roger Wilbraham, being the Solicitors of the motions for peace, as heretofore they were, when otherwise the Militia had been bravely executed at Beameheath. Many Gentlemen for the Militia, and all the Souldiers at Nantwich were exceedingly offended, thinking it an hard thing to make peace with them, whom the parliament had voted for high delinquents. But Mr. Marbury, and Mr. Mainewaring, deputie-Lieutenants, who took upon them this matter, hearkened to the motion, and were desirous of an accommodation for these causes.

1. For that the Countie wanted horse, and therefore though they might defend themselves within their Townes, yet they could not much offend, or repress their active adversaries, who by the helpe of their horse were plundering every day, and might soone waste all the Countrey.

2. They saw it was no trusting to the ayde of the Parliament, which though long look't for, made no approach, & without which they were not able any long time to make good their enterprizes.

3. Though for the present they had a competency in ammunition, yet if the service should prove hot and continued, it would too soone be exhausted.

4. They heard of great forces on their march to strengthen their adversaries, which proved true; for besides that they brought in Collonell Hastings, with about 300 horse into the Countie, they had other Companies at Whitchurch and Draiton, which might grievously infest the Countie, though they feared not the losse of their Garrison Townes.

5. Lastly, to give the Gentlemen their due, they are men of temperate spirits, abhorring plundering, and all hostile acts, though in just retaliation, if possibly things might be effected otherwise.

These things weighed on every side, both parties agreed to meet, Torpley was the place, being the midway betwixt Chester and Nantwich, Munday, Decemb. 19 was the time. The Lord Viscount Kilmurrey and Master Cholmondeley were for the Array, though afterwards they exchanged Master Cholmondeley for Master Bridgeman; Master Marburie and Master Henry Mainewaring were for the other part: The Array came better provided than the other, being authorised by the rest of that Commission for confirmation of what they agreed to: The other neither then could nor never can, procure a confirmation from the rest of the deputie-Lievtendants but promised their endeavour. Little was done that day, save the Propositions drawn, and a cessation of all hostile acts concluded on both sides, and mutuall intercourse for the Gentlemen betwixt Chester and Nantwich, till the Treaty was ended, and the businesse adjourned till Wednesday.

The two Gentlemen for the Countie not fully prepared for the meeting on Wednesday, because they could not procure the consent of the deputie-Lievtendants to confirme their acts, they sent the night before to prevent that meeting, and to adjourne it till Thursday. The Commissioners of Array were glad to gaine time, in expectation of their forces from Shropshire, treacherously brought in (at the best) to compell an agreement.

They imprisoned the Messenger sent to Chester, tooke the Letters, which they would not be knowne of, denyed to Master G. Booth entrance into Chester, contrary to the Agreement, hasted to Torpley, knowing wee could not meete them, that they might have matter of exception against our Gentlemen, but the business was so agitated that they met at Bunburie, two miles from Torpley, because Torpley was taken up with Colonell Hastings Troops upon thursday. At Bunburie a peace was concluded, the heads of the Articles or Propositions are these.

1. That there be an absolute cessation of Armes within the Countie, unlesse by consent of King and Parliament.

2. All to be disbanded on both sides by munday next.

3. All prisoners on both sides to be enlarged.

4. All fortifications presently to be demolished.

5. All goods and armes taken on both sides to be restored.

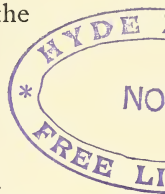
6. That they of the Array shall before the 8 of Jan. procure a Letter from the King to declare that he will send no forces into this Countie, and if any come both parties shall joyne to resist them.

7. Neither partie to put their Commissions in execution.

8. Lastly, Both parties promise so farre as in them lyes, to bring in their friends, &c. to performe this agreement, and to Petition the King and Parliament for a speedy peace.

But now I shall truly relate some horrid barbarismes, acted by the Commissioners of Array, and their partie, contrary to this agreement, during the time of the Treatie, and the day after peace was concluded.

Collonel Hastings being divers times greatly solicited by the Com. of Array, with promises of great reward, from Shropshire advanced to Torpley upon Thursday, with about two or three hundred horse, notorious robbers, many of them advanced from the Goale to his service. After him the same day came in the Lord Cholmondeley with his troope and carriage. They of Nantwich having notice thereof, would needs have issued out upon them that night, being well furnished for that service.



The Commanders and Souldiers were so bent upon this expedition, that they were almost fallen into a mutinie, because Master Marburie and Master Mainwaring would not permit them, in regard of the meeting the next day, and for that the Array had owned these troops, undertaking for their good behaviour: so yeelding to the good natur'd Gent. they lost the opportunitie for their own honour, and just vindication, but the Com. of Array had no such tender consciences, nor care of their own honour and publike peace.

Collonel Hastings sent a great part of his troops to Master Lancasters house, the Pastor of Topley a painfull and pious preacher, thither the Lord Cholmondeley who is Mr. Lancasters parishioner, sent many of his and the Lord Rivers troops that fed upon his hay and corn, and to other houses which houses could not containe, they carried Master Lancasters hay and his barley in the sheaves, and littered their horses with the barley, though they had great plentie of oate straw in the Barne lying by them. Divers of their own partie, as Master Savage, Sir Hugh Calveley, and others, expressed much discontent to see such waste of the creatures, which threatned a famine. Some moved the Lord Cholmondeley that the Earle Rivers troop might not be sent to Master Lancasters, because he had sustained so much losse already, but he bade they should all go to the Parsonage, saying Master Lancaster lost too little, if he lost all that he had, calling him stinking Rascall, with other such like opprobrious speeches. They drove out the pigeons in the night: and though they had plentie of coale, yet they pulled down the pales and some walls of the outhousing to burn, and burnt good timber also, which was laid by for building: some of the Souldiers took it out, telling the rest they knew not what it was to have an house and provision of their own. Yet such was their fury, that they have not left him necessities for his own subsistence with his familie.

Yet this is but little to their further outrages; there be two shoemakers in the Town, honest poore men, whom they have

utterly ruined: the one had his house and goods lately burnt, but by collections and gratuities, he had a little cote built him, and a stock of Leather to set him up. From him they have taken his shoos, leather, brasse, pewter, bedding, and all that he had, nor would leave so much as a printed or written book to his sonne, being a poore school boy, also they took up the boards of his chamber floore, and cast them away, and brake in pieces his coffers: so that he who through his honest labour maintained a family, without trespassing on his neighbours, is destitute of all help, unlesse repaired again by his friends. The other Shoemaker is one that is lame, and hath the falling sicknesse, an object of compassion to all that look on him, and one that was lately set up by collections in many Churches. From him they took his shooses, seven paire of boots, his leather and all his stools, not leaving him an Awle.

In the same Town they have plundred the hay, fuell and all the household goods of Mrs. Ley, to the verie bed-cords. And at Utkinton they have beaten the servants, and taken in rich apparreil and furniture, to the value of 200*li.* or more, as is thought. They have plundered Stapleford, Master Bruens house and Master Judson in Rishton of all that he had, which they rate to 100*li.* and Will Welde of the same town to the value of above 15*li.* Master Torshells house also the Pastor of Bunburie. In a word, for ought we can heare, there is not an householder in all these parts who is reputed religious, but lesse or more they have pillaged them, and taken away very many good horses, so that the Countie by this incursion is indamaged many thousands of pounds, and some utterly ruined.

In the time of these outrages, the Earle Rivers, and Lord Cholmondeley were at Torpley, knew of them, would not repress any, though many complaints came before them: yea the Lords servants were actors in much of this mischief. And after the Lord Kilmurrey was returned to them having confirmed the peace for that Countie, they went on plundering all that night, and the next morning, without any regard to their hands, seals,

and faith given for the peace of the Countie; yea restitution being required according to the Propositions, they sleighted it, because they could not bring in the particular persons offending: and Mr. Lancaster's man producing one Jupart who had stolne his wheels, they drave his man away with harsh language, and another pressing on the matter, by what other wrongs Mr. Lancaster had sustained, he was driven from amongst them, and passed away in great danger of the battleaxes. Yea the Lord Cholmondeley himself commanded the Clerk of the Church to fetch him a Round-heads horse, threatning him if he did not. Moreover since that time, Rogues of this Countrey have been taken with horses they stolne, and sent to the goale, but the Justices of the Array have discharged them; whereby it appears, they intend no execution of Laws, but take under their protection all that will openly appear in the wasting of the Countrey.

Out of the premises its easie to collect these considerations.

1. To what a sad condition our state is brought, when we may complain of our Nobles and Rulers set over us, as once the Prophet complained of Judahs forlorn estate: Thy Princes are rebellious, and companions of theeves. Isa. 1. 23. And again with the same Prophet, *As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them: O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to erre, and destroy the way of thy paths. The Lord will enter into judgement with the ancients of his people, and the Princes thereof, for ye have eaten up the vineyard: the spoil of the poore is in your houses.* Isa. 3. 12. 14.

2. In what equipage the Irish and our English Rebels walk, mov'd by one principle, though divided into severall Kingdoms, they both belch out horrid blasphemies, rage against the Ministers, waste the kingdom, abrogate the Laws which are the breath of the King and life of the Subject: and though they boast of their loyaltie, yet over-topping the Laws, they overpower the King, and endanger that wofull lamentation of Israel. They shall say, we have no King, because we feared not the

Lord, what then should a King do unto us. Hos. 10. 3. But the way to prevent so great a maladie is prescribed by the wisest King : Take away the wicked from about the King, and his throne shall be established in judgement.

3. What we may think of our late converted Papists, who assert their fained return to us, bring forth such bitter fruits, like degenerate Israel, Their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah, &c. Their wine is the poyson of Dragons, and the cruell venome of Aspes. Deut. 31. 32. 33. Let them return to their sea of blood again, for Christs peaceable government (who makes his lie down in green pastures, and leads them besides the waters of quietnesse, Psal. 23. 2) cannot own such for children.

4. Whether it be safe for any to admit of a parlie with them who are so notoriously perfidious : God deserts such, shall not we ? I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be, for they are a verie froward generation, children in whom is no faith. Deut. 32. 20.

5. Lastly, whether this pacification for Cheshire, be not made void, first ipso facto, by the Protestation, and now by the Commissioners of Array themselves, in such their perfidious dealing and acts of hostilitie, so as the whole Countie may (salva fide) joyn with the Parliament forces, whensoever they come for vindication of former violences, and their faith now violated. If two parties bear up a chain to barre the way to an enemie, if either loose their hold, the way is laid open, they have let fall their end to let in and out Rebels : shall not we let down our end to let in our friends ? Let the world judge.

XXII.

Magnalia Dei. A Relation of some of the many Remarkable Passages in Cheshire before the Siege of Namptwich, during the Continuance of it: And at the happy raising of it by the

victorious Gentlemen Sir Tho. Fairfax and Sir William Brereton. Published by Authority and entred according to order.

Psal. 31. 23. 24.

O love the Lord all ye his Saints, for the Lord preserveth the faithfull, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Be of good courage and ye shall strengthen your hearts, all ye that hope in the Lord.

London: Printed for Robert Bostock dwelling at the Signe of the Kings head in Pauls Church-yard. 1644.

To the well-affected reader.

Tis not to tell thee news so much that these papers come abroad, but rather to let thee know thy stronger ties and engagements to the God of our salvation. Pitie it is so glorious mercies should be spilt and lost upon an ungratefull people. The works of God speak his goodness and power, more expressively than words can, and amongst others this the narration points to; here thou mayest find more satisfaction in those undoubted truths, that the battell is not to the strong, and that God is the Lord of Hoasts; which may prepare thee for dependance on Him in future evils; for them who are related to that County, they cannot sure so far forget themselves as to forget Gods doings for them. Had they heard of the slavery or death of those worthy gentlemen who have run so many hazards for God and their Countrey, or of the base scorne and contempt (at the least) which would have fallen upon the Ministers of Christ there had they been taken or lastly, of the giving that poore town up to plunder and massacre, let themselves guesse how cold it would have gon to their hearts; and now the snare is broken and they are delivered, how should they blesse him who did appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. The Lord teach us so to use Mercy when wee have it, that we may not turne the grace of God into wantonness. These few words may prepare thee for, and let thee into the following relation. Farewel.

We have appointed Robert Bostock to have the sole Printing of these Relations.

3 Febr. 1643.

Tho. Middelton.

Gilbert Millington.

Will. Ashurst.

A Relation of some of the many Remarkable Passages before the Siege of Namptwich, during the continuance of it, and at the happy raising of it by the victorious Gentlemen, Sir Thomas Fairefax, and Sir William Brereton, and the Lancashire Gentlemen and Forces with them.

As the power and providence of God hath been of late more discernably employed in other parts of the Kingdome, on the behalfe of his people, so especially in Cheshire. Not to run backe to wonders of an elder date (of which that County hath had not a few) this last was such as might well be reckoned among Magnalia Dei. It may be that works may convert them that words will not, and this Relation may startle those who fight hood-winkt, and Balaam-like discern not God against them.

The English Army that had left Ireland to the mercy of those odious Rebels, came over about the midst of November, and making their first attempt upon Hawarden Castle, received a timely advertisement from the Parliaments forces there, which was sent upon their summons of the Castle in these words :

To the Gentlemen lately come from the service in Ireland.
Gent.

Wee are sorry you have made such an unhappy exchange of Enemies, to leave Irish to fall upon English, and Papists to fall upon Protestants : We had hoped the blood of that noble Gentleman Sir Simon Harcourt, and the many thousands of Protestants, who have fallen by the fury of those bloody monsters of Ireland, could not have beene so soone forgotten.

What course the Court of England runs, how destructive to the Protestants, and favourable to the Papists, you cannot but know with us by sad experience; And therefore we desire before you passe further, your thoughts may make a pause, lest you finde that God of the Protestants against you, whom you have hitherto found miraculously for you. We feare the losse of our Religion more than the losse of our dearest bloud: Doe not, we beseech you, desire us to betray it and ourselves: Wee hope your second thoughts may take off the edge of your former resolutions, however we are resolved to make good our trust, and put our lives into the hands of that God, who can, and we hope will secure them more than our wals, or weapons.

Their unwelcome entertainment of this message discovered their pre-ingagements to be our deadly enemies, and they soone shewed us how little of civility was to be expected from them. When they had taken that Castle, and broken all articles agreed on upon the surrender, when the Parliaments forces were necessitated to it, by want of provision, after a fortnight's siege; They were somewhat encouraged to further attempts, especially new Regiments comming in to their augmentation. After some stay at Chester (where they manifested their unruly and spoyling dispositions) they came out to Beeston Castle, which through the treachery of one of the Guards, and the cowardize of the Governour (who is since executed for it) was suddenly surrendered to them. Thence they make forward to the further misery and sorrow of the wofully oppressed Countrey, and spoyle all that part of the Countrey adjoyning to Shropshire. When they had got what was to be had there, they sought fresh quarters upon that part of Cheshire, which borders on Staffordshire, where they were at their old trade of plundering very busily.

Sir William Brereton with some Lancashire forces came in to our ayde, drew up to Sandbach; but upon the enemies appearance (apprehending themselves too weake to encounter so great a power) they left that place to their enemies, and fell down to Middlewich, three miles lower. The enemy, encouraged thus

far, fell upon them at Middlewich, and tooke above a 100 of our men, slew some, and disheartened all the rest : The noise of this caused Northwich to be quit, and then they sent a new summons to Crew house ; for they had summoned it once before, but summons would not take it ; and therefore they fall on to assault it with a great deale of resolution but are beaten off with very great losse. Our men, what through want of Ammunition, and despaire of reliefe, surrendered the house upon quarter for their lives, which they gave them with sorrow enough. They had before this taken the neighbouring Church of Bartemly, where some honest men took Sanctuary, and there perfidiously promised quarter, but gave none. It hath stricke some with no small wonder, that men of formerly generous spirits (as some of them are) should thus degenerate into such odious inhumanities. After this they summoned Dedington House, which was surrendred without a shot, so far had the terrour of these prevailing men possest the spirits of the Defendants. Thence they goe on to Acton Church (their own trap afterwards) and after some shot of their Ordnance against it, become the masters of it. Thus like an inundation, which knowes no bounds or stops they had borne downe all the County almost, and were got to the wals of that place, which was the onely heart and life of the Countrey, the Garrison of Namptwich.

Now in the night they make severall mounts and works round the Towne, and planted their Ordnance on all sides ; but before Sir Iohn Byron, who was Commander in chiefe, would engage himselfe against the Towne, he sent this summons :

To the Commanders, Souldiers, and Inhabitants of the
Towne of Namptwich.

That it may appeare to all the world, that neither I nor the Armie under my conduct, desire the bloud or ruine of any (as we have been most falsely and maliciously scandalized in that behalfe) but that our chiefe aimes and endeavours are to reduce

the people to their due obedience to his Majestie, and settle the Country in peace without shedding of blood, I have thought good, before I engage mysele upon the towne, to let you know:

1. That I do in his Majesties name charge and command you, to deliver up the said towne of Namptwich, with all the Armes, Artillerie, Ammunition, and other things therein into my hands, for his Majesties use ; and that all Commanders, Souldiers and others, immediately lay down their Armes, and submit to his Majesties grace and Mercie.

2. I promise pardon to such as shall readily lay downe their Armes and submit, and shall give safe conduct to such as shall desire to goe to their houses in the Countrey, and will protect both them and the Inhabitants of the Towne in their persons and estates, except such as His Majestie hath excepted.

3. If you refuse these conditions, I shall by Gods help use other meanes for the recoverie of his Majesties right, and vindicating of his and the Countries wrongs ; whereby if you, and those many good people, who are forced to bee among you shall perish, both your owne bloud and theirs shall rest on your owne heads.

I am content to allow two houres for returne of an answer, and admit a cessation of Armes on both sides, till that time be expired.

If you will send two men of qualitie, the one a Souldier, and other a Townes-man, to treat (with me, or such as I shall appoint) upon the time and manner of the render of the Towne, I will give safe conduct and caution for their safe returne.

John Byron.

There was answer returned to this at the gate by word of mouth, that the Towne was kept by us for the use of the King and Parliament, and by their special directions ; and that we have resolved to keep it against him and his Forces, so long as it pleased God to enable us. This was said openly to satisfie the Souldiers, at which they gave up a great shout and great joy was thorowout all the Guards, and all the Towne. The Souldiers

were afterwards undaunted and unwearied, notwithstanding they had such violent and diligent enemies. They shot cold and fierce bullets into the Towne night and day, but killed none but one man and one woman, and burned nothing but one stack of kids at the back of Mr. Wilbrahams house. Many strange deliverances were had through Gods mercie, which deserve a Chronicle, and will find it in the hearts of men, if not in other books. The 17 of Januarie they shot an hundred shot with their Ordnance from one mount against the Towne and works: about a week before their furious, and (to themselves) fatall assault, they sent a second Summons in these words:

To the Inhabitants and Commanders of the Towne
of Namptwich.

Whereas I am certainly enformed, as well by divers of the Souldiers, who are now my prisoners, as by severall other creditable persons, that you are not only in a desperate condition, but that the late Summons I sent to the Towne hath been suppressed and concealed from the Inhabitants thereof, and they most grossely abused, by being told that no mercie was intended to be shewed by this Armie to the Towne, but that both man, woman and child should bee put to the sword: I have therefore thought fit once more to send unto you, that the minds of the people with you, may be dispossessed of that false and wicked slander, which hath been cast upon this Armie: And I doe charge you (as you will answer Almighty God for the lives of those persons who shall perish by your perfidious dealings with them) that you impart and publish the said Summons I sent to the people with you, and that you yeeld up the Town of Namptwich into my hands, for his Majesties use, and submit yourselves to his Majesties mercie, which I am willing to offer unto you. Though I am confident, that neither, of yourselves, or by any aid that can come unto you, there is any possibilitie for you to escape the hands of this Armie. If you please to send two Gentlemen of qualitie to me, the one a

Commander, the other a townes-man, whereby you may receive better satisfaction, I shall give safe conduct and hostage for their returne. I doe expect a present answer from you.

John Byron.

Jan. 16, 1643.

The Answer.

We have received your last Summons, and do returne this answer ; that wee never reported, or caused to be reported, that your Lordship, or the Armie, intended any such crueltie, wee thinking it impossible for Gentlemen and Souldiers so much to forget humanitie : and if any have informed you otherwise, it is their owne conceit, and no realitie. Concerning the publishing of your former Summons, it was publikely read amongst the Souldiers and Townesmen, as your Trumpeter can wnesse, and since that time multitudes of coppies of it have been dispersed among the Townsmen and others, and front none hath it been concealed and detained. For the deliverie of this town, wee may not with our consciences, credits, or reputations, betray that trust reposed in us, for the maintaining and defending this towne, as long as any enemy shall appear to offend it. Though we be termed Traytours and Hypocrites, yet we hope and are confident, God will evidence and make knowne to the world in his due time (though for the present we should suffer) our zeale for his glorie, our unfained and unspotted loyalty towards his Majestie, and sinceritie in all our professions.

George Booth.

This Gentleman perhaps had not seen Sir Iohns Letter to the Earle of New Castle, wherein hee perswades him to follow Butcherie instead of Souldierie, otherwise hee would have abated somewhat of his over-large charitie.

There were some other papers sent into the towne from Captain Sandford, a man very lavish of ink and big words (as wee know by experience, having been troubled with many of the like papers of his in Hawarden Castle before this time) and who

afterwards ended his life at the towne side, upon his assault of one of the works.

To the Officers, Souldiers, and Gentlemen in Namptwich,
these.

Your Drum can inform you, Acton Church is no more a prison, but now free for honest men to doe their devotions therein ; wherefore be perswaded from your incredulity, and resolve, God will not forsake his Anointed. Let not your zeal in a bad cause dazzle your eyes any longer, but wipe away your vaine conceits that have too long led you into blind errors. Loath I am to undertake the trouble of perswading you into obedience, because your erroneous opinions doe most violently oppose reason among you. But, however, if you love your Towne, accept of quarter ; and if you regard your lives, worke your safeties by yeelding your Towne to the Lord Byron for his Majesties use. You now see my Battery is fixt, from whence fire shall eternally visit you day and night, to the terrour of your old, and females, and consumption of your thatcht houses. Beleeve mee, Gentlemen, when I have laid by my former delays, and am now resolved to batter, burn, and storne you. Doe not wonder that I write unto you, having Officers in chief above mee ; 'tis only to advise you, because I have some friends among you, for whose safety I wish you to accept of my Lord Byrons conditions ; hee is gracious, and will charitably consider you : Accept of these as a summons, that you forthwith surrender the Towne, and by that testimonie of your fealty to his Majestie you may obtaine favour. My Fire locks, you know, have done strange feats both by day and night, and hourelly wee will not faile in our private visits of you. You have not as yet received mine alarmes ; wherefore expect suddenly to heare from my batterie and approaches before your Welch Roe.

Thomas Sandford,

Captain of Fire-locks.

This 15 of Jan. 1643.

This big-spoken man not satisfying himself with this, addes the following Letter :

Gentlemen,

Let these resolve your jealousies concerning our religion : I vow by the faith of a Christian, I know not one Papist in our Armie ; and as I am a Gentleman, wee are no Irish, but true born English, and reall Protestants also born and bred : Pray mistake us not, but receive us in your faire esteem. I know wee intend loyaltie to his Majestie, and will be no other but faithfull in his service. This, Gentlemen, beleeve from yours,

Thomas Sandford.

January 15.

This Gentleman, the day before his death, said to one of our Drums these words. Sirrha, behold the messenger of death, Sandford and his Fire-locks, who neither use to give, nor take quarter. This following order was found in his pocket.

Major Hamond with that Regiment under his command
and the Fire-locks with the scaling ladders.

The Fire-locks, and all the Dragoons armed with Fire-locks or snaphances to fall on first so neer unto the fall of the river as may be, on the left hand of the bulwark, to be seconded by 100 musketeers, then a body of pikes, then a reserve of musketeers. Let the souldiers carry as many faggots as they can.

Richard Gibson.

Jan. 17, 1643.

The Field-word. God and a good cause.

Our souldiers abhorred parleys, and would not endure the sight of any more summons : the enemy discerning such resolution, had a project to gain the towne by a sudden and violent assault upon five severall places of the towne at once ; and this was done an houre before day, upon notice given to one another by a shot of one of their Ordnance, the eighteenth of January, which was a costly assault ; for they left dead at the wall lane end Lieutenant Colonell Bolton, one Captain, many Officers, &

the prime of their souldiers of the red regiment: many they cast there into the river, and carried many off dead and wounded. At Wichsteds sconce was slaine Captain Sandford (the threatning man that talkt of eternall fire) and his Lieutenant, and some few souldiers besides left, and many carried off slain and wounded. At Pillory-street end, left dead behind, one Captain, two Lieutenants, two Ensignes, seventeen souldiers of the green regiment, and carried off 60 slain and wounded thence. At the back of M. Manwarings were left slain two Lieutenants, and thirteen souldiers, and many dead and wounded carried off. At the sconce neer the Lady Nortons was left slain one Captaine, and 15 souldiers, besides what was carried off. There are with us of them deadly wounded Officers and souldiers 18. One of their own party reports they lost in the assault 300 men; but we now understand they lost and had wounded 500 men. Thus it pleased Almighty God to defeat them, and to lend that town his powerfull assistance for their securitie, when their dangers were so neer.

For all this, the enemies make good their siege, and will not be taken off from their designs: At last that long-lookt for help came by that noble and religious Gentleman, Sir Thomas Fairefax, and Sir William Brereton, and the rest of those valiant Gentlemen and souldiers, who having wrestled with God before by severall daies of humiliation, and being followed with thousands of prayers more than their own, obtained one of the greatest victories (all things considered) which we have had in this Kingdom. And because no words can expresse it with more modestie and truth than his own, we shall only use Sir Thomas his Letter to his Excellencie the Earl of Essex.

Sir Thomas Fairefax his Letter, to his Excellency
the Earle of Essex.

May it please your Excellencie,

I desire your pardon, that I have not given your Excellencie an account before this, of the great mercie God hath

shewed us, in giving us a happy Victory over the Irish Army, to a totall ruine of their foot, and purchase of their chiefe Commanders. Vpon the 21th of January, I march't from Manchester towards Namptwich, to relieve that Town with 2500 foot and twenty eight Troops of Horse; The Enemies Forces were above 3000 foot, and 1800 horse; the first encounter we had were with a party of theirs upon the Forrest of Delamore, where about thirty were taken prisoners; about six miles further they maintained a Passage against us with about 200 men; I caused some Foot and Dragoones to bee drawn out to force it, which by Gods assistance they did in halfe an houres space, and there took a Major and some prisoners; having advanced some two miles further we found a good Body of them planted about Acton Church a mile from Namptwich; which drew up within Cannon shot which sometimes played upon us, but without hurt God be thanked; wee there understood that the Lord Byron who had besieged the Town on both sides of the River, was prevented by overflowing of the water from joyning with that part at Acton Church, but heard that he was taking a compasse to get over the River to joyne with it, we resolved to fall upon that party at the Church before he should get up to it, but staying to bring up our Reere and Carriages, we gave him time to obtaine that hee fought for; then wee resolved to make way with Pioneers through the Hedges, and then to march to the Town to relieve it, and to adde some more Force to our selves to enable better to fight with them; but being a little advanced on our march, they told me the Enemy was close upon the Reere, so facing about two Regiments being Colonell Hollands, and Colonell Boothes, I march't not farre before we came to bee engaged with the greatest Party of their Army, then the other part presently after assaulted our Front, there Sir William Brereton and Colonell Ashton did very good service, and so did Colonell Lambert and Major Copley with the Horse, they were once in great danger, but that they being next to the Town were assisted by Forces which came to

their succour in due time ; wee in the other Wing were in as great distresse, but that the horse commanded by Sir William Fairefax did expose themselves to great dangers to encourage the foot, though capable of little service in those narrow Lanes ; yet it pleased God after two houres fight they were forced by both Wings to retreat to the Church, where they were caught in a Trap. A List of what we took I have here sent your Excellency.

Thus the Lord of Hoasts hath done great things for us, to whose name alone be ascribed all glory, that nothing in the worthlesse creature may any wayes darken that which eminently appears herein of the Creator, hoping that he will still goe on with us to prosper us in this way, and make me though unworthy, more capable to serve him in it ; And so to observe your Excellencies commands, as it may appeare how much I am

Yours Excellencies most humble Servant,

Namptwich, 29 January, 1643.

Tho. Fairefax.

A List of the Prisoners taken at Acton Church, Jan. 25, 1643,
neer Namptwich.

Major. Generall Gibson.

Colonell.

Sir Michael Earnley.

Sir Richard Fleetwood.

Colonell Monk.

Colonell Warren.

Lieutenant Colonells :

Sir Francis Buttler.

Lieutenant Colonell Gibbs.

Major Hamond.

Slain,—

Lieutenant Colonell Vane.

Lieutenant Colonell Boulton.

The one in the fight, the other
in the assault before the Town.

Captains :

Atkins, Sydenham, Finch,
Disney, Fisher, Cooke,
Ward, Dean, Lucas, Litcole,
Betts, Spotswood, Bam-
bridge, Willier.

Lieutenants :

Long, Norton, Roe, Pawlett,
Goodwin, Liverson, Duddle-
ston, Pate, Morgell, Les-
trange, Shipworth, Ankers,
Billingsley, Castilion, Mil-
ner, Bradshaw, Walden,
Lyons, Poulden, Smith.

Ensigns :

Brown, Brereton, Bach, Fines,
 Wright, Davis, Southwood,
 Addisse, Smith, Mahoone,
 Rise, Deudsworth, Mus-
 grave, Pemicock, Dunster-
 field, Elliar, Eiclash, Philips,
 Heard, Thomas, Morgan,
 Lewis, Godsclue, Budby,
 Terringham, Wither.

Cornets :

Lee, Carpenter.

Quarter-Masters :

Lee, Petty.

Sir Ralph Done also taken.

Mast. Shurlock, Chaplain to
 a Regiment.

Gentlemen of Companies,
 twenty.

Serjeants, forty one.

Drums, fourty.

Corporals, sixty three.

Four Canoneers.

Colours, 22.

Women, many whereof had
 long Knives, 120.

Common Souldiers, 1500.

Ordnances, Six, five of Brasse.

Carriages, 20.

Divers of the Wagons.

Rich Plunder.

That this Mercy may not passe, as too many do, but for a nine dayes wonder, these things would be seriously thought of, whereby it may be seen, they had all advantages but God.

1. The man upon whom the eyes of the Garrison were most fastnd for his known sufficiencies, and from whom they had the largest expectation of direction and encouragement, was taken prisoner a little before the siege, that they might look for salvation higher.

2. Our enemies were men of great experience, who had run through all sorts of services, and were not now to learn the Policies of Warre.

3. They were men acquainted with the greatest hardship, habituated to cold and want, and what ever suffering a winter siege could require.

4. They were put in heart by their former Successes, and that would make them the more daring and desperate, and they were valient before, being used to nothing but Conquests.

5. They were in view of a large Plunder, and nothing but an earthen work between it and them.

6. They were a greater Army than that which came to the relief of the Town for number, and therefore we need the lesser to wonder at Sir John Byrons presumption.

7. They had a Female Regiment (as they seldom marcht without) and these were Weaponed too; and when these degenerate into cruelty, there are none more bloody. How many thousands of the Irish have these men formerly encountred, and never met with such a defeat.

And lastly, that this victory and siege should cost them so little expence of blood, being but four lives lost in the Town, and about twenty in fight, is little lesse than a miracle.

All these wayes they had farre the better of it, but that it might be seen that the Battell is not to the strong God casts the Scales the other way.

It may be, aftertime may tell more wonders, but here is enough to work upon a thankfull heart; which is the rather sent abroad, that those who have mourned and prayed over this Town in its greatest extremities, may now see what cause they have to blesse the Lord, while they have any being. God hath given anew, to some their Countrey, Friends, and more than can be told on a sudden.

The Kingdom is rid in a great part of one of the most formidable Armies in it, partly through the power of it, but more through the rage of it; of which we hear some stories sad enough, and fear more. God is now making bare his Arm for us, and if our sins do not stay his hand, we shall have mercy far above what we can ask or think. Gratitude for what is done, is the way to get more to be done; and if we render according to our receivings, this goodness of God will be but a pledge of future and greater mercy. We are still in a wanting condition, and must have many a wonder wrought, ere Peace and Truth will be had. But what cannot God do? And what will he not do for a gratefull people? The Lord make us such, that it may go well with us, and the generations after us,

XXIII.

A True Relation of a Great Victory obtained by the Parliaments forces against the Cavaliers neere Chester with the number of Colonels, Sergeant-Majors, Captaines, Lieutenants, that were slaine at Wem and at Lee-Bridge in this fight by the Parliaments forces. As it was sent in a letter from one that was in the fight to M. James Waters in Newgate Market, and received the 24 of November, 1643.

Novemb. 27. Printed by E. P. 1643.

A true Relation of a great Victory, obtained by the Parliaments Forces, against the Cavaliers neere Chester.

Loving Master,

My cordiall love and kind commendations remembred unto you, desiring your health, happinesse, and safety : I have written many letters unto you, but I feare they have had the common fate (to miscarry) neverthesse I would be loath to slip any opportunity, whereby there seemeth to be any possibility of sending unto you. I praise God we are now in reasonable good quietnesse in this County of Chester, and the last stirring that we had was upon the 17 and 18 of October, the certainty of which you shall heare, Viz. Upon the 17 of October, the Lord Capell set out of Shrewsbury, with all the forces he could possibly raise, both in Shropshire and all Wales, forcing them to come upon paine of death ; and besides he had gotten Colonel Hastings and a great party of his Company, and Colonel Bagot, and the most of his forces, from Lichfield to assist him, and they marcht to Priest-Heath, and Sir W. Brewerton, and Sir Thomas Middleton, at that time with their forces were in Wem, a Town some seven miles off Shrewsbury, which they have made a Garison Towne for Colonel Mitton, and had just fortified it about with mud-wals, but had not then time to make any Sconces : and Sir W. B. and Sir Tho. M. with their Forces, marcht after him, and came to Priest-Heath likewise, and there

made their Rendezvous, and their Trumpets sounded a Challenge, but the Lord Capell would not meet them, for he had layd an Ambuscado for them, which Sir W. B. scouts perceived, and then Sir W. changed his ground, and the Lord Capell and his Forces marcht all with great speed towards Namptwich, and never stayed untill they came upon Ranmore, and there his two peeces of Ordnance stayed and part of his forces, and the rest came straight forwards to Acton, and were there before our men were aware, and then that horse and foot which we had in Namptwich, the most of them went out to face them, and set upon them, and drove them into the Church-yard, and into Acton Church, and killed foure of them and shot more, and got some few of their horses, and then when they had got the Church-yard, they shot very briefly, and our men could do no good of them: two of our men were shot, and so they came into Namptwich againe; for the most of our Forces were with Sir W. B. and then wee made good our Towne, and would have dyed in the defence of it, and they sallied out of the Church, and we discharged two of our peeces of Ordnance at them, and that scattered them al away again, that they would never come within Musquet shot of our Towne, and then some party of them fetcht a compasse thinking to have come over Beamebridge, and a party of ours went out to meet them, and our men drove them back a fields bredth, and took 7 of them prisoners, poore bare Rogues, and then their Horse came and fetcht them away, and they fled all to Acton again as fast as they could, and there they stayed untill 12 a clocke at night, and plundered many thereabouts, Rich. Pollit, M. Huits Factor, both of Money and his owne Cheese, to the value of forty pound, and plundered at Darford Hall, and Rowland Salmon, one that stood all for them, and some others, and then they hearing that Sir W. B. was comming they fled away againe and it fell out that Sir W. B. had false intelligence, that he came by Brayton, and so by Whoone, and mist comming in the reare of them, partly mistrusting they had laine in Ambuscado for him; and then the

enemy all went back to Wem, making no question but to have taken it, and swore a bloody oath it was their owne, and the Cavaliers they made a 1000s. of kids, some of broome oulder, and straw, and such as they could get and came holding them before them, to get to the walls side, and in Wem, there was only Colonell Mitton, and his souldiers, 300 was the most, and they behaved themselves valiantly and dasht their braines upon the kids, and kept their Towne and many a bloody kid there lay, and men gasping on the ground of the Cavaliers, and drive them off in despight of them, being 4,000 at least : Indeed our men had good walls and the Towne is watred that they come but of one side of it, to hurt them in the Town, and with one of Colonel Mittons case of Drakes killed sixty of the Kings party at one shoote, and they being driven off, hearing that Sir W. B. and Sir T. M. were nearer retreated towards Shrewsbury, and our men followed and drove their Horse 2 miles and then the enemy had a great advantage, a hill, a stone wall building, and a wood that night, and next morning our men took 42 Cavaliers into Nantwich, there they stayed, and our men in a plaine valley, none knowing the ground, they discharged very fast one at another and at length our men went some on the other side of the hill, and then the Cavaliers would not stay : this inclosed note shewes you what execution was done. So I rest, yours
W. B.

A Catalogue of those that were kild, wounded and taken prisoners of the Kings party in this fight, being on October the 17 and 18, 1643.

Colonell Wyn slaine, and then the Welch men fled.

Colonell Scriven wounded.

Colonell Willes wounded, and his Lieutenant taken prisoner.

Major Broughton wounded.

Captaine Chapman taken prisoner.

Captaine Manlye wounded, and his Lieutenant also.

6 Carriages of dead Corpes taken away, and 30 men left more on the ground.

Captaine Lieutenant Chapman taken prisoner.

Captaine Ellis slaine.

Captaine Davies wounded, and taken prisoner.

A Barrell of powder blown up, and burnt 8 or 9 of their men.

A great Carriage burst, and their mortar piece broken.

On the next day 3 of Sir W. B. Troopes tooke 17 of their men in a Towne in Wales, Captain Dampont, 2 Cornets, o Ensigne, 1 Sergeant, 1 Chirurgion, 11 common prisoners, and they are brought to Namptwich.

Major Marrow slaine in Wem on our side, and one Souldier more, 6 killed at Lee Bridge of Sir W. B. and 15 shot, this is most certaine Newes.

This is Licensed, and Entered according to Order.

XXIV.

An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament: For inabling of Sir William Brereton, Baronet, one of the Members of the House of Commons, speedily to put in execution the Ordinances for the Sequestration of the Estates of Papists and Delinquents, the Fifth, and Twentieth Part, Weekly Assesment; and all other Ordinances of Parliament, with the County of Chester, and County and City of Chester: And to take Subscriptions for the better supply and maintenance of the Forces under his Command, for security of the said Places, and preventing the Accesse of the Irish Forces into those Parts. Also allowing unto the said Sir William Brereton the personall Estates of all Papists and Delinquents in and about London, and within 20 miles therof, as are not yet sequestred or discovered, for the Service aforesaid.

Die Martis. 26 Martii, 1644.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, that this

Ordinance be forthwith Printed and Published. Joh. Browne Cler. Parliament.

Printed for *John Wright* in the Old Baily, March 29, 1644.

An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons in Parliament : To inable Sir William Brereton Baronet, one of the Members of the House of Commons, to execute the severall Ordinances of Parliament, for Advance of Money with the County of Chester, and County and City of Chester, and to take Subscriptions for the better Supply and Maintenance of the Forces under his Command, for the security of the said Places, and for prevention of the Accesse of the Irish Forces into those Parts.

The Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament taking into their serious Consideration the present condition of the County of Chester, and of the County and City of Chester, and the Parts adjacent ; and the dammage which hath already happened, and may still accrue to this Kingdome, by the frequent Accesse of the Irish Forces into the said Place, (by means of the Haven of Chester being yet within the Enemies power) joyning themselves with such Delinquents and Papists as are now in armes in those Parts against the Parliament : have thought fit that Course be timely taken for prevention of further mischiefs, by landing of more Irish Forces in those parts. And therefore that they might speedily reduce the said County and City of Chester, and places aforesaid, to their due obedience to the King and Parliament, have thought it necessary, that competent Supplies and Provisions be had and established, as well for the Discharge and Paiment of such Arreres as are already due and owing to the Officers and Souldiers employed in the Service aforesaid, as for their future maintenance and allowance during such time as their Service shall be requisite. To which end and purpose, the said Lords and Commons, having had good experience, and being fully assured of the Fidelity and Resolution of Sir William Brereton Baronet, one of the Members of the

House of Commons ; and of the forwardnesse and good Affections of the Deputy-Lieutenants, Commanders, and Inhabitants of the said County of Chester, have Ordained, and be it Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, That the said Sir William Brereton shall have full power and authority, to take the Subscriptions of all such persons, as will voluntarily lend, or contribute any summe or summes of Money towards the Supplies and Provisions aforesaid, and for other necessities for the advancement of the said Service : Which sums of Money to be subscribed as aforesaid, the said Sir William Brereton, and his Assigns, shall and may receive and imploy for the Service aforesaid, and give Notes or Acquittances for the severall sums so received ; which said Notes or Acquittances shall be a sufficient Specialty and Evidence for the severall Persons that shall lend or contribute any Money as aforesaid, to demand repaiment thereof, with such Increase as shall be agreed upon, so as the same shall not exceed eight pounds per Centum. And for the better inabling the said Sir William Brereton to make repaiment of such Moneys as shall be lent for the said purposes, and to performe such conditions and agreements as the severall Subscribers and Lenders shall agree unto as aforesaid ; and for the Maintenance and supplies of the said Forces, and further advancement of the aforesaid Service.

Be it further Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, That the said Sir William Brereton, together with the Deputy-Lieutenants, and Committees of the said County of Chester, and the County of the City of Chester, or any two, or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority to put in Execution, within the said County of Chester, and County of the City of Chester (when the same shall be reduced) the severall Ordinances of this Present Parliament hereafter mentioned : That is to say, The Ordinances for Sequestration of Malignants, Delinquents, and Papists Estates. The Ordinance for the levying of Moneyes by way of Excise, or New Impost. The Ordinance for the raising of Money, by taxing such as have not at all contributed, or not according to their Estates. The Ordinance for the Weekly

Assessments, and all other Ordinances made this present Parliament, for advance of Money through the whole Kingdome and Dominion of Wales, for the Service of the King and Parliament, so farre forth as they, or any of them, have not been already fully executed within the Places aforesaid : and to take care for the full and due Execution of the said Ordinances according to the Tenour and true meaning of the same, respectively. And for the more speedy raising of Moneys for the repayment of such Summes as shall be brought in by subscriptions, as aforesaid, and towards the satisfaction of such Officers and Souldiers as are in arrear of their just pay and allowance, and for whom there shall not be present Pay and Provision allowed : Be it Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, that the said Sir William Brereton, together with such Deputy Lieutenants and Committees as aforesaid, shall have hereby full power and authority to set and let the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, of all Papists and Delinquents which are or shall be seized and sequestred according to the Ordinance of Parliament for Sequestration, within the said County of Chester, and Countie and Citie of Chester, or either of them from year to year, or by Lease of Leases for the intents and purposes aforesaid, so long as the said sequestration shall continue. And in case the Lenders or Subscribers shall not receive full satisfaction of their principall Money to be lent or subscribed as aforesaid, with the interest thereof, out of the Estates of Papists and Delinquents, as aforesaid, or by such other meanes as is hereby provided as aforesaid. That then the said Lenders and Subscribers, and every of them, shall have the Publique Faith of the Kingdome for the payment of such Summe and Summes of Money as shall be due unto them. And whereas the said County of the City of Chester, is wholly subjected to the power and tyrannie of the Forces raised against the Parliament, by reason whereof no Commissioners or other officers could as yet put in execution any of the said Ordinances of Parliament : And whereas some persons formerly appointed

by Authority of the Parliament to be Commissioners and Officers within the said County of Chester, and County of the City of Chester to execute the Ordinances aforesaid, for the Service of the Parliament, have since neglected and deserted the same, and manifested their disaffections thereunto, Be it therefore Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, that for the supply thereof the said Sir William Brereton, together with such Deputy Lieutenants and Committees as aforesaid, shall have full power and Authority to name and appoint such Commissioners, Treasurers, Collectors and other Officers within the said County of Chester, and County and City of Chester, when the same shall be reduced, as shall be necessary (through the defect aforesaid) for the better putting in execution of all and every Ordinances of Parliament before mentioned, and of all other Ordinances of Parliament, in case either no Commissioners or other Officers be named by the Authority of Parliament, to put the same in execution within the said County of Chester, and County and City of Chester, or either of them, or in case the Commissioners or other Officers already named, have neglected or deserted the said Service, or otherwise discovered their disaffections to the proceedings of Parliament, which said Commissioners and other persons so to be named and appointed by the said Sir William Brereton, together with the Deputy-Lieutenants and Committees as aforesaid, shall by virtue of this present Ordinance have as full power and authority to put the said respective Ordinances in execution, as if they were named by both Houses of Parliament, and their names inserted into the said respective Ordinances.

And be it also ordained by the said Lords and Commons, that the severall Summes of Money which shall be lent for the advancement of the said Service, and such increase as shall be due for every respective Summe so lent according to the true intent and meaning of this Ordinance, shall be satisfied and paid out of the Moneyes that shall be raised within the places aforesaid, by virtue of the aforementioned Ordinances, or of

this present Ordinance. And the said Sir William Brereton, with such Deputy Lieutenants and Committees as aforesaid, are hereby enabled and authorised to call to Accompt upon Oath all such persons of the said County of Chester as have received any Moneyes by Authority from the Parliament: As also to take Accompts upon Oath from time to time of the said Commissioners, Treasurers, and other persons who shall receive any Moneyes within the said places by such Authority as aforesaid, and the same to convert and imploy for the services aforesaid, and to give such fitting and reasonable allowances unto such persons as shall be employed in the execution of the Ordinances aforesaid, and of this present Ordinance, or any of them, for their paines and charges therein, and the said Sir William Brereton shall thinke fit, provided that such allowance shall not exceed the respective Rates allowed in other Counties of the Kingdome for putting the said Ordinances in execution: And if any Treasurer, Collectors or others shall refuse to accompt or pay in the Moneyes, wherewith they are charged, then the said Sir William Brereton, together with such Deputie Lieutenants and Committees as aforesaid, shall returne their names to one, or both Houses of Parliament. And the said Sir William Brereton, together with such number of Deputy-Lieutenants, or Committees, as aforesaid, is hereby Authorized to Administer the severall Oaths specified in the aforesaid Ordinances, unto such Commissioners and persons (which have not already taken the same) as by the true meaning of the said Ordinances, or of this present Ordinance, or any of them, ought to take the same. And be it further Ordained by the said Lords and Commons, That the personall Estates of such Delinquents and Papists within the Cities of London and Westminster, and within twenty miles of the same, not yet sequestered nor discovered; and which shall be discovered by the said Sir William Brereton, or such person or persons as he shall Authorize under his Hand and Seale for that purpose, within two moneths next after the publishing in Print of this Ordinance, shall be allowed unto the

said Sir William Brereton, for the further advancement of the said Service, provided that the said concealed Estates exceed not the summe of five thousand pounds: And that the said Sir William Brereton, or any person Authorized by him, as aforesaid, nor any of them, shall possesse themselves of the said Papists or Delinquents Estates, before he or they acquaint the Committee of Lords and Commons for Sequestrations therewith, to the end they may judge of the Delinquencie of the persons, before his, or their Estates be sequestred and taken away. And be it further Ordained by the Lords and Commons, That the said Sir William Brereton shall have Power and Authority, and is hereby required to administer the Covenant (appointed to be taken by the three Kingdomes of England, Scotland, and Ireland) to all Persons within the said County of Chester, and the County and the City of Chester, who ought to take the same (by the late Ordinance and instructions for that purpose) and have not already taken it.

And be it further ordained by the said Lords and Commons, that the said Sir William Brereton, together with the Deputy-Lieutenants and Committees, as aforesaid, shall have Power to call before them all Ministers and Schoolmasters within the County of Chester, and the County and City of Chester, that are found in their lives or ill-affected to the Parliament, or fomenters of this unnaturall Warre or shall wilfully refuse obedience to the Ordinances of Parliament, or shall have deserted their ordinary place of residence, not being employed in the Service of the King and Parliament; and they shall have Power to send for any Witnesses, and examine any Complaint or Testimony against them, upon Oaths of such persons as shall and may be produced to give Evidence against them: and upon such Proofs of the aforesaid Crimes, the said Sir William Brereton, together with the Deputy-Lieutenants and Committees aforesaid, have hereby Power to remove and eject all such scandalous Ministers and Schoolemasters, and in their places to nominate and appoint such learned, able, godly and fit persons, as they (with the advice

and consent of three, or more, godly and learned divines of the said County of Chester, which they shall call unto them for that purpose) shall think fit ; and shall cause all such Ministers and Schoolemasters, so nominated, appointed, and placed, to be put into possession of the said Churches and Schools, who shall and may respectively take, receive, and perceive to their own uses, and Profits and Revenues belonging to the said severall Churches and Places, in as large and amply manner, as the severall Ministers and persons in the said severall places have formerly used to do.

XXV.

Great Victories obtained by the Earle of Denbigh at Shrewsbury, Chulmely, and other Parts in Cheshire. Where were taken prisoners, the Lord Newports sonne; Lieutenant Colonell Horton; Serjeant Major Manly, Governour of Bangor; Serjeant Major Fisher; 1 Lieutenant Colonells Colours, and other; 100 Armes; 2 Barrels of powder and store of bullets; 66 Prisoners more, amongst which some others of note, good horse, and other purchase; Serjeant Major Pinkney slain on our side, and 5 or 6 wounded. With the copie of the Oath that was imposed on the Cavaliers before the Garrison was taken. Published according to Order.
 London. Printed by J. Coe, Anno Dom. MDCXLIV.

A Letter from an eminent Commander in the Earle of Denbighes Quarters.

Sir,

Since my last, the messenger whereof is pistold by the way with my Lords Lettere and mine, these are to enforme you that we have been in very hot and sharpe service, making attempt to gaine a bridge to Shrewsbury which we did gaine, and made the enemy fly in half an houres hot service. My Lord himselfe lead on galantly in the forlorne hope, having not patience till the

bridge could bee let downe, we all in the forlorne hope crouded through the River to our horse skirts, wee only had one man fell over there was drownd, so we pursued and tooke Major Fisher, Major Manly, and many other prisoners, they issued out of Shrewsbury and fought with us, we beat them in, and finding our selves too few to besiege it, we in the night retreated and are now this day upon news received marching for York. The news to us is this enclosed, for I now am in haste.

Dated at Weme, newly come from Shrewsbury.

July 9, 1644.

Sir,

I Blesse God I yet live to praise him for his renewed mercie to me and our Armie, and to write to you our condition, & that you may have a true test, my General hates idlenes, I must tel you he lets us not rest night nor day, but upon one designe or other; wee were this day sevensnight at Manchester, then hurried wee to Knotsford, Northwich, and to Oswestrie to relieve that: at which place and in that service, Sir Thomas Middletons Troope and mine had the brunt of the service, and came off with honour: they tired out with often charging, Sir Thomas brought up other horse to relieve them: who fell on gallantly, and did good service: and pursued the Enemy neere Shrewsbury, and took many prisoners of qualitie, the Lord Newports sonne a Parliament man, Marrow hardly escaped.

The very next day my Lord Generall sent Captaine Keme to give Orders for all horse and foot to quarter on and about Sutton on the Hill, in the way to Shrewsbury, early next morning we marched towards Mansford Bridge where the Enemy kept Garrison: and a drawbridge over the Severne: our men fell on gallantly, and my Lord himselfe appeared in the Van of the Forlorn Hope for their encouragement, which caused them to stir bravely, and to strive to adventure beyond expression to gain the passage, in a quarter of an houres time the Enemy fled: upon which my Lord sent Cap. Keme to call the Forlorn Hope

of Horse, and after other horse which hee did, and wee came so hastily on, that one Captaine Shipply a gallant man, not having patience to stay till the drawbridge was let down, ventured over the River after him, rent the Forlorn Hope, In pursuit, and my Lord was in the midst of them, and only one man next me, and not far from my Lord, fell into a hole of the River, hardly escaped drowned.

Thus wee got out and by this time the bridge was downe, our Army crowding over. I mean the horse out of Captaine Kemes Troop came in at a house over the Bridge where they kept the Court of Guard, and tooke a Lieutenant Colonels Colours, which he gave his Captaine to present to my Lord, but we followed the pursuit, and between the Bridge and the Heath we tooke most of the men, and had wee not hollowed for all our horse to come up we had entred Shrewsbury, with the enemie, many of their horse and foot quartering out of Towne which wee lighted on some of Marrows Dragonnes: We drew up till our armie came up on a Heath on this side Shrewsbury a mile, the Enemy came in parties up Ambuscadoes, the lanes we beat them from them. Colonell Booth lead his Regiment of Foot on himselve valiantly: and my Lords owne horse, his life Guard commanded by Captaine Tovy a gallant man pursued to pistoll shot of the Workes: Marrow came out, and Major Manly, and fought with us; and there was a hot bout for two houres and above: Wee tooke Major Fisher, Major Manly, Governour of Bangor, and divers other Officers and Souldiers.

We made good the ground within Musket shot of their Works till night: then seeing our little Armie was not able to sit downe before it: my Lord drew off and wee retreated that night to the Heath. A mile off and the whole Army quartered in the fields, the horse, foot and carriages on the Heath. Next morning wee marched away upon advice of the Councell of Warre to Weme: where we quartered all night, being Friday. Saturday we marched to Whitchurch: On the Lords Day morning, my Lord had Captain Keme to preach, which he did

and after dinner gave him order to order a Randevouz at Normans Heath which was done: where my Lord further declared his intentions to send the Cheshire Gentlemen, and on his march to observe the commands of the Committees of both Kingdomes to secure Lancashire and Cheshire to waite on P. Rupert, to call in at Cholmley house, a strong Garrison of the Enemies: My Lord with his owne Troop and Colonell Bartons; and Major Burtons, and Captaine Kemes, and Captaine Farmers, and some two Troopes more marched to view the ground, we came to it, and found it full of difficultie, unlesse we spent time on it. Yet my Lord sent them a Summons by a Trumpet, which was to tell them, hee required in his passage to have quarter in the house for his army, for the use of King and Parliament; the Enemy scorned to answer, but shot at the Trumpeter; upon which, my Lord gave order to draw up his Cannon, and early saluted them: and finding them to take little effect, resolved to storne it; upon information it was surrounded with a small ditch only; But the Cheshire men that knew it was a moat deep and broad were somewhat backward to adventure their men: My Lord told them his Honour was ingaged in it; what hee did was in affection to expresse his affections to them. And if they would not go on, he would go on with his Stafford foot himself; Major Lowthen a gallant man lately come out of prison; hearing it went to some of the Cheshire Officers, and told them what my Lord said; upon which they drew forth a 100 out of a Regiment. So Major Pinkny a most valiant honest Gentlemen led on the Stafford Foot, who had the brunt of the businesse; Lieutenant Colonell Horton the Cheshire, and Major Croxon, and after the signall of two piece of Ordnance, fell on to storm it, and such a storm, as I never heard the like but at Basing, in half an houres time, they within cried quarter; but by reason of hollowing, and Drummes and Trumpets, they could not be heard; at last our men entered the draw bridge, and took it.

In which entry Major Barton, Captain Tovy, and Captain

Hitchcock, and Captain Halford did good service, facing their horses, and in which entry in the croud, I had like to have lost my life, or taken the mote when we came in. Our men were so mercifull to give them their lives, till we heard brave Major Pinkney was slaine, shot in the belly and in the armes by two slugs, who is much lamented, Captain Keme is to preach, this evening at his funeral, he was my Lords Major of Stafford foote, under Colonel Rudgeley. In the house was little riched only some good horses, 2 barrells of powder, and store of bullets; what there was the Souldiers had, and arms about a 100 prisoners, Lieutenant Colonell Horton, and other 66 in all. My Lord gave them to the Cheshire Gentlemen, and the horse to Reare Garrison. It is a place if you see it miraculously gained by Gods free love, with losse but of five men, and 6 wounded. This night we came to Namptwich, to morrow is a day of thanksgiving to God for our selves, and the great businesse of York. I have sent you the Cavaliers Protestation I found in the house. My love to all our friends. Pray and praise God, I rest yours.

Nantwich, the 9 of July, 1644.

A Protestation. Confirmed by Oath, taken by the Major and the Loyally affected in the City of Chester, for the defence of that City, against this present Rebellion. 1644.

I A.B. Do freely, and from my heart vow and Protest, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will, with my life and utmost Power, maintain and defend this house of Chulmley, against all Forces raised, or to be raised without his Majesties expresse consent upon any pretence whatsoever; and particularly against the Forces now under the Conduct of the Earle of Essex and Sir William Brereton, and all Forces which do or shall adhere unto them, or either of them or their Party. And I will neither directly, nor indirectly give or suffer to be given, any Intelligence

to the said Earl of Essex, or Sir William Brereton, or any their Forces or Adherents, in Prejudice of this House, or the forces within the same; but will discover to the Governour of the Forces within the said house, all such Plots and Designes as I shall know to be against the said house. And this I vow and Protest, without any Equivocation or mentall Reservation; Beleeving that I cannot be absolved from this my Vow and Protestation; And wishing no blessing from Almighty God if I do not performe the same; So help me God, and by the Contents of this Book.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

XXVI.

Sir William Breretons Letter concerning the Surrender of the City of Chester for the Parliament: Together with the Articles agreed on betwixt both parties, and the Commissioners Names. Sent in a Letter to the Honorable William Lenthal, Esq., Speaker of the Honorable House of Commons, and appointed to be forthwith printed and published.

London: Printed for *Edward Husband*, Printer to the Honorable House of Commons. February 6. 1645.

For the Honorable William Lenthal, Esq.,
Speaker to the Honorable House of Commons.

Honorable Sir,

The care of preserving this City from ruine (being the most considerable in this part of the Kingdom) invited to entertain a Treaty, wherein at the least ten dayes were spent in several transactions, the Enemy still using protractions and delays in hope of their expected Relief: For which end, strong preparations were made, whereof we received frequent Advertisements from several persons, that Ashley and Vaughan had united their Forces, and lay hovering about Bridgenorth. Their



intention was to have joyned with the Welch Forces under the Lord St. Paul, with those Irish that came over in December last, and those other now lately Landed at Beaumaris, who were part of the Lord Digbies Regiment, some whereof are English, and some Lorrainers, as these Intercepted Letters inclosed mention. To prevent the conjunction of which Forces, I sent three Regiments of Horse, the Warwickshire, the Reformadoes Regiment, and part of the Staffordshire Horse, and some of the Cheshire Dragoons, together with some of Colonel Mittons Horse and Foot, which party was commanded by Colonel Mitton, who marched to Ruthin upon Saturday night, Ian. 24, intending to fall upon the Enemy in their Quarters, but the Enemy escaped and marched to Denbigh, and so towards Conway: Nevertheless our Forces came most seasonably; for Ruthin Castle was so unprovided, as that we have now great hopes of Reducing that strong Castle, however the Conjunction of the Enemies Forces is hereby prevented, which might probably occasion the Enemies Retreat, after they had Quartered three or four dayes about Bridge-North and Shiffnall, and had drawn out some small pieces and two Cases of Iacks. So as the Besieged being now hopelesse of Relief, sent out their Commissioners Ian. 30 to treat with ours, whose names are herein inclosed.

The number was proposed by them, and was the rather assented to by us, to the end better satisfaction might be given to the common Souldiers, when some of their own Officers were intrusted and imployed in Treating and making Compositions for them, that they might thereby be also obliged to restrain their Souldiers from Plunder and Violation of what is concluded and agreed upon.

The first day nothing was concluded upon.

This day Ian. 31 they were mighty importunate that the Treaty might be continued, and respited until Monday morning until nine of the clock; which being refused, as by my last Letter appears, they delayed not to enter into a Treaty; whereupon it was concluded to be delivered upon these inclosed

Conditions, whereunto it was the rather assented, to prevent the Plunder of the City, which could not have been preserved, if it had not been taken by Composition. That which further remains is satisfying the Souldiers and setling of the City, which will prove a work of great difficulty, wherein my endeavours shall not be wanting to the uttermost of my Abilities, or to serve the Publique in any other imployment Commanded, and shall ever professe myself to be, Sir

Your most faithful Friend and humble Servant,

William Brereton.

Chester Suburbs, Febr. 2, 1645.

Though this Letter was Dated Febr. 2 yet I thought it fit to stay the Messenger untill we were able to send you the certainty that we were possessed of the City. What Ordnance, Arms, or Ammunition, or what Irish are found therein, you may expect to receive an Accompt in my next. I do not hear any further Reports of the Irish, neither do I believe, they will be now lesse forward to adventure into these parts.

William Brereton.

Chester, Febr. 3, 11 of the Clock.

Articles Concluded and Agreed upon February 1, 1645. Between the Commissioners appointed on the behalf of John Lord Byron, Field-Martial General of North Wales, and Governour of Chester on the one part; and the Commissioners on the behalf of Sir William Brereton Baronet, Commander in chief of all the Forces of Cheshire, and at the League before Chester, on the other part, for the surrender of the City of Chester, with the Castle and Fort thereof.

1. That the Lord Byron, and all Noblemen, Commanders, Officers, Gentlemen, and Souldiers, and all other persons Whatsoever now residing in the City of Chester, and the Castle and Fort thereof, shall have liberty to march out of the said City,

Castle and Fort, in all their Apparel whatsoever, and no other, or more goods, Horse, or Arms, then are hereafter mentioned, viz., the Lord Byron with his Horse and Arms, and ten men with their Horses and arms to attend him : Also his Lady and Servants, two Coaches, and four Horses in either of them for the accommodating of them ; and of such other Ladies and Gentlewomen, as the said Lord Byron shall think meet, and with eighty of the said Lords Books, and all his Deeds, Evidences, Manuscripts, and Writings, in his possession ; The said Lord, his Lady, nor any their Attendants, carrying amongst them all above fourty pounds in Money, and Twenty pounds in Plate ; The rest of the Noblemen, with their Ladies and Servants, to march with their Horses, each of the said Lords attended with four men, their Horses and Arms, every such Nobleman carrying with him not above thirty pounds in Money : Every Knight and Colonel to march with two men, their Horses and Arms ; no such Knight or Colonel to carry with him above ten pound in Money : Every Lieutenant Colonel, Major, and Captain of Horse, with one man, their Horses and Arms ; no such Lieutenant Colonel, Major, or Captain, carrying with them above five pounds in Money : Every Captain of Foot, Esquire, Graduate, Preaching Minister, Gentleman of Quality, the Advocate and Secretary to the Army, every of them with his own Horse and Swords, the Ministers without Swords, none of them carrying with them above fifty shillings, and the Ministers to have all their own Manuscripts of Notes, and Evidences. Lieutenants, Cornets, Ensignes, and other inferiour Officers in Commission on Foot, with every man his Sword, and not above twenty shillings in Money : All Troopers, Foot-Souldiers, Gunpowder-makers, Canoneers, and all others, not before mentioned, to march without Horse and Arms ; And that none of the Persons before mentioned, shall in their march, after they are out of the City and liberty thereof, be plundered, searched, or molested.

2. That all women of what degree soever, that please to march out of the City, shall have all their Apparel with them ;

And such Officers Wives (Whose Husbands are Prisoners, or absent) may carry away such sums of money with them, as are allowed by these Articles to Commanders, Officers and Gentlemen of their Husbands qualities, and no more.

3. That none of the Commanders, Officers or Souldiers, or any other, at, or before their marching out of the City, Castle or Fort, do injure, or plunder the person or goods of any, nor carry any thing away out of the City, Castle, or Fort, but what is their own and hereby allowed.

4. That all Citizens, and others, now residing within the City, shall be saved and secured in their persons, and their goods and estates within the City and Liberties thereof, preserved and kept from the Plunder and violence of the Souldiers, and have the like freedom of Trade, as other Cities and Towns under the Parliaments protection have, and such Immunities as they of right ought to have: And that every such Merchant, and Tradesman of Chester, as shall desire to go into North Wales to look after his goods, shall have a Pass to go thither, and return back again, he first giving security that during his absence, he will do no Act to the prejudice of the Parliament; And that no such person shall at any time, without License, carry more moneys with him than sufficiently to defray the charge of his journey; and that all Citizens, and other Inhabitants, who shall now, or hereafter desire to march out of the City of Chester, and not act anything against the Parliament: His or their Wives or Families, to have the benefit of, and priviledge of Inhabitants.

5. That such Officers and Souldiers as shall be left sick or wounded, within the City of Chester, or the Castle, or Fort thereof, shall have liberty to stay until their recovery, and then have Passes to Conway: or any of the Kings Garrisons not blocked up in the meantime, to be provided for.

6. That the said Lord Byron, Noblemen, Commanders, Gentlemen, Officers and Souldiers, and all others that shall march out of town, shall have liberty to march to Conway, and

five dayes are allowed them to march thither, with a Convoy of 200 Horse: The Welsh Officers and Souldiers to have liberty to go to their own homes; and all of them to have free Quarter in their march, and twelve carriages if they shall have occasion to use so many; which carriages are to be returned in the sixth day; and Passes to be given them for their safe return to Chester; and that they be secured until they return thither.

7. That no Souldier in his march shall be inveigled or inticed from his Colours or Command, with any promise or inducement whatsoever.

8. That all such persons, Citizens or others, who have Families in Chester, and are now in places remote thence, shall have the like benefit of these Articles, as those who are now resident in the City.

9. That the friends of the Earl of Derby and Lietchfield, or any of those whose dead Bodies are not yet interred in Chester, shall have two moneths time to fetch them thence, whither they please, provided that none of them come attended with above twenty Horse.

10. That no Church within the City, Evidences or Writings belonging to the same shall be defaced.

11. That such Irish that were born of Irish parents, and have taken part with the Rebels in Ireland, and now in the City, shall be prisoners.

12. That all those Horses and Arms, belonging to those that march out, and not by those Articles allowed to be taken and carried out of the City; Except such Horses as are the proper goods of the Citizens, and the Inhabitants that shall remain in the City before the delivery of the same, be brought, the Horses into the Castle Court, the Arms into the Shirehall, where Officers shall be appointed to receive them.

13. That in consideration hereof, the same City and Castle, without any slighting or defacing thereof, with all the Ordnance, Arms, Ammunition, and all other furniture, and provisions of War therein whatsoever, except what is allowed to be carried

away, and formerly herein mentioned, with the County Palatine Seal, Sword, and all the Records in the Castle, without Diminution, Imbezeling or Defacing, be delivered unto the said Sir William Brereton, or such as he shall appoint, for the use of King and Parliament, upon Tuesday next, being the third of this instant February, 1645, by ten of the clock in the Afternoon.

14. That the Fort, with all the Arms, Ordnance, Ammunition, and provision therein, of what sort soever, not formerly granted or allowed of, upon the signing of these Articles, be delivered to Sir William Brereton, or to such as he shall appoint.

15. That upon signing of these Articles, all Prisoners in the City, Castle, and Fort, that have been in Arms for the Parliament, or imprisoned for adhering thereunto, shall immediately be set at liberty.

16. That the Convoy shall not receive any injury, in their going or coming back, and shall have three dayes allowed for their return.

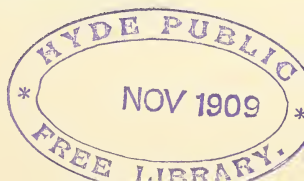
17. That if any person concerned in any of these Articles, shall violate any part of them, such persons shall loose the benefit of all the said Articles.

18. That upon the signing of these Articles, sufficient hostages, such as shall be approved of, be given for the performance of all the said Articles.

Signed by us, the Commissioners appointed, on the behalf
of the Right Honorable the Lord Byron,

Edmund Varney.	John Johnson.
John Robinson.	Christo. Blease.
Thomas Cholmundley.	William Ince.
Peter Griffith.	Iohn Werden.
Henry Leigh.	Edward Moreton.
Thomas Thropp.	Thomas Bridge.

What is done by the Commissioners, is confirmed by John Byron.



Commissioners for Sir William Brereton.

Colonel John Booth.	Roger Wilbraham, Esquire.
Colonel Jo. Bower.	Adjutant General Lowthian.
Col. Robert Duckenfield.	Iona. Bruen Esquire.
Col. Mich. Jones.	Lieut. Col. Hunt.
Col. Chidley Coot.	Lieut. Col. Venables.
Col. Jo. Carter.	Master Bradshaw.

XXVII.

Husband's Orders of Parliament.

Die Veneris, 6 Febr., 1645.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, That Thursday next come three weeks shall be set apart for a day of publique Thanksgiving to Almighty God for his great mercy, in giving up the strong City of Chester into the hands of the Parliament, to be observed and kept in all Churches and Chappels in the several counties above ten miles distant from the Cities of London and Westminster; and that the gentlemen that serve for the said several counties and places, do take care that timely notice may be given to the several Ministers in the said respective counties, to the end they may stir up the people to a due thankfulness, in regard both of the seasonableness and greatness of the mercy.

XXVIII.

The Kings Forces totally Routed by the Parliaments Army, under the Command of Major-Generall Poyntz and Cheshire-Forces, on Routon-Heath, within two miles of Chester, Sept. 24th, together with the state of the Siege at Chester; and a List of the Lords, Knights, Commanders and common Souldiers slain and taken

prisoners ; there being above One thousand prisoners taken, and the whole Army Routed.

Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That this be forthwith printed and published: H. Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Printed for *Edward Husband*, Printer to the Honorable House of Commons. Sept. 29, 1645.

To the Honourable William Lenthall Esquire,
Speaker of the House of Commons.

Honourable Sir,

Wee still keep the Suburbs of Chester, and yesterday joyning our forces with Major Generall Poyntz, God gave us a great Victory over the Kings Army, whereby God hath not onely given us, but the Kingdom much cause of joy and thankfulness: We have such earnest business at present upon us, that we our selves cannot have time to represent to you the particulars, but have commanded the Chaplain to our Forces, who was an eye witnes to all that was done, to give you a full accompt thereof: All that we shall trouble you with at instant, is to renew our humble requests, that you will be pleased to expedite our Remonstrance, and procure a speedy Order for moneys to be with all possible speed conveyed to us; otherwise we shall not be able to keep such Forces together as are necessary for this work:

And so with tender of our Service, rest

Your most humble Servants,

G. Boothe.

Ph. Mainwaringe.

Rog. Wilbraham.

Chester Suburbs,

Sept. 25, at 3 post Meridiem.

A true Relation of the great Fight and Routing the Kings forces on Routon Heath, Sept. 24.

It pleased God upon Saturday morning, Sept. 20, 1645, about break of day to deliver into the hands of the Cheshire Forces,

though few in number, under the command of Col. Michael Jones, and Adjutant Louthian, The Suburbs of the City of Chester, formerly accounted for to Sir Wil. Brereton; in which expedition (though by storm) we lost but one man; the Enemy fired most part of the Suburbs, Cow-lane, St. Johns Lane, and the street without the North gate; our care was to hasten to the taking of the City, without which the diseased county could never be cured. Vpon the Lords day we brought in our Artillery, fixt a battery, & upon Monday made a great breach in the wall, resolving to storm it at night, which we endeavoured in 3 or 4 places, but the Ladders proved too short, and the breach too high on the inside, so they made their retreat with the losse of two men, and some wounded. The Suburbs were entred by Captain Gimbert, the breach by Captain Finch, both of them stout and trusty men; though God deferred that mercy we hoped for, in gaining the City, he gave us a better, the utter Routing and spoiling of the Kings Army; which was thus performed.

Our Intelligence upon Monday Sept. 21, was, that the King was at Chirke Castle, intending for Chester: Upon Tuesday, two trusty men were sent to seek Major Gen. Poyntz, who was appointed to follow the King, but we heard nothing of him; they meeting with him at Whitchurch, and acquainting him with our present condition (who were like to be stormed that night) he hastned away, marched all night, though tired with long marches before: About six a clock Wednesday morning, he advanced within a mile of the Enemy, three miles from Chester, the one not knowing of the other; upon notice, both set themselves in a posture; Generall Poyntz upon Hatton Heath, divided from the Enemy on the Milne Heath by a Lane, they being betwixt him and the City: he first charged them though upon a disadvantage, because the Enemies whole body was not come up, but had a repulse, in which that gallant Gentleman Col. Graves was sore wounded, & Col. Bethell, but not so dangerously; about 20 men slain, many wounded;

but we hear the Enemies losse was greater, however, upon the retreat, it was noised that Gen. Poyntz was utter Routed, which was sad news to our Forces in Chester; who upon consultation, at first thought it fit to quit the Suburbs, least the Army miscarrying, all should be lost; but upon Intelligence that Poyntz kept his ground and stood in a body, they resolved to keep what ground they had gotten for the gaining of Chester, and to assist Generall Poyntz with Horse and Foot, which he sent for. and they promised: The signall of their march from the Suburbs, was the discharge of two piece of Ordnance, at which there was great shouting in Generall Poyntz campe, who without us could neither charge the Enemy, nor make good their Retreat if need should require: God in his good Providence deferred the work to that time of the day, that we might finde the fruit of many Prayers made for us, it being the monethly Fast, and by this accession to vindicate our innocency, who were asperst for a factious county, and mutinous Souldiery, though we can proffesse it before God and the world, that we know not that county where the Gentry and Commanders are more firmly cemented in the band of true affection than this, nor a Souldiery more obedient to commands, constant upon duty, and now free from mutinies. Many of the Gentlemen of the county resorted to us, gave their best assistance for the carrying on of this work, upon whose shoulder no small burden lies to regulate these troubled affairs: It was agreed by them, that Col. Jones, a dextrous and resolute Souldier, should go out with the command of Horse and Foot, 350 and 500. The Foot were led by Col. John Booth governor of Warrington, who was very forward in that Expedition: Adjutant Gen. Louthian, a man of known worth, was to keep the suburbs, a work of great trust & courage.

When these forces joyned with Gen. Poyntz there was great joy in the camp, the Enemy formed themselves into a body upon Routon Heath, two miles from Chester, and stood in Batalia, being about 5000 as their own party confesse, having drained their Garrisons: We hastned towards them in the

best posture we could, the Horse was the Battell, because many, the wings were Foot because few; they had the Wind and Sun; we had God with us, which was our Word, counterpoising all disadvantages, and countermanding all strength; a little before 5 a clock, we joyned in a terrible storm, firing in the faces of one another, hacking and slashing with swords neither party gain'd or lost a foot of ground, as if everyone were resolved there to breathe their last: Whilst the dispute was so hot and doubtfull, our Musquetiers so galled their horse, that their Rear fled, perceiving their losse by them, upon whom they made no Execution. Their Van perceiving that, faced about, and fled also: We had nothing then to do, but to pursue and make Execution, which we did to purpose, for though the ways were strewd with Arms, Portmantles, Cloakbags, and Horse, we left those to any that would pillage, and fell to Execution: Some part we chased to Holt bridge, the most towards Chester; some say the King was in the field, others that he went out with a party, next aftermentioned; but certain it is, he went out from the City by the North gate, and thither retreated, for that gate is without our Works.

A memorable service was performed by the Shropshire Forces, at the appointment of Lieutenant Louthiane, who were part of them that kept the suburbs. When Collonel Jones was marcht out to joyne with Generall Poyntz, there issued out after him through the North-gate (with which party its affirmed the King went) about five hundred horse and three hundred foote of the Kings and Queens Regiments and General Gerrards Lifeguard. Adjutant Louthiane sent after them about two hundred of the Shropshire horse, commanded by Lieutenant Collonel Coote in chiefe, the second division by Collonel Prince, the last by Ma: Fenwick and two hundred foote commanded by Captain Daniell, these gallantly performed what they undertooke, routed and chased the enemy, slew the Earle of Leichfield and others, tooke divers principall officers and followed the execution foure miles.

After we thought the work was ended, the enemy made head againe, and they that escaped in the field and about Chester, joyned in another body, fell upon part of our forces with advantage (for they were desperate seeing they had lost the day) drave them to our mud walls, where the guards made execution on them, and some small measure upon ours in the reare, through mistake: so they fled towards Bridgetrafford being ignorant of the Foote, where they were driven into deepe ditches and boggy places. The Country men set on them there, tooke one hundred horse and sixty persons. Others fled into the forrest where they are met with.

Whilst wee were thus engaged in the field the enemy taking advantage of the small number left in the suburbs attempted the regaining of them in many places; but were everywhere gallantly repulsed with losse by Adjutant Louthiane.

We cannot give a particular account of the number of the slaine, which were many, neither know we our own losse, but that it is very small. Wee have taken the Earle of Portlands brother, with many considerable persons: Knights, and officers, above one thousand prisoners; And its probable that of the five thousand they say was in the field, the King will hardly rally one thousand, wee desire the honour of this victory may be given to God alone, to whom alone it is due, his Instruments behaved themselves gallantly, the Cheshire Horse were knowne most couragious, we desire not vainely to glory in any thing God hath done by us, but let the world say whether wee have been backward in the work committed to us as some have suggested.

Let Souldiers judge what it is for so small a force to maintaine the leaguer at Beeston, take and keep the outworks of Chester, to assist others a farre off, and these in the field, and runne all hazard, rather than quit a foot of what we have gained. Neither will we fixe here. These are but the beginning of action to us, since our new moddle, so successfull, so much despised.

Upon Parliamentary supplies already Petitioned, we trust in

him, whouse souldiers we are, to give as good account of our after proceedings, both in reducing this County and assisting the neighbourhood.

Prisoners taken at, and after the Rowting of the Kings Forces on Rowton Heath within two miles of Chester, the twenty fourth of September, 1645.

Knights and Collonels:

Sir Philip Musgrave, Major
Generall.

Collonel Sir Thomas Dawbri-
chcoate.

Collonel Sir Thomas Dacres.

Collonel Sir Michael Consta-
ble.

Collonel Sir Thomas Goare.

Collonel Sir Henry Stradling.

Collonel Johan Philiem
Heitter.

Collonel Weston, sonne to
the late Lord Treasurer.

Collonel Gifford.

Collonel Cromwell.

Collonel Fletcher.

Lieutenant Collonels:

Mathan, Millington, Hatton,
Salkeld, Ruly, Broughton,
Rutherford.

Majors:

Williams, Morris, Magduggell,
Magdoole, Lacymouth.

Captaines:

Martin, Swinlue, Henshaw,

White, Gibbon, Starling,
Sheley, Conyers, Johnson,
Dixon, Presse, Louthier,
Willey, Moreton, Simpson,
Bell, Boulton, Vaughan,
St. Michaels, Captain of the
Queens Troop, with him a
Scarfe taken, which the
Queen took from about her
necke, and gave him to
weare as Colours for her.

Lieutenants:

Cottrell, Morgan, Bartrom,
Astelby, Story, Colborne,
Constable, Mansfield, Skip-
with, Jefferson, Power,
Brooke, Whitney, Ellyott.

Cornets:

Elsing, Julyan, Rainsford,
Morley, Pierson, Fitz-
Williams, Smith.

Quartermasters:

Thomas Sheldon, the Kings
Quartermaster, Collizer,
Lowe, Brere.

Trumpets five.

Corporalls two.
 Gentlemen of the Kings Life-
 guards, seventeen.
 Twenty more Gentlemen.
 Troopers between eight hun-
 dred and a thousand.
 Master Sherburne of Stan-
 nyhurst, Master William
 Leighton, Master Lewis
 Darcy, Master Henry
 Boucher, Master James

Mountague, Master Gilbert
 Markham.

These very considerable Gen-
 tlemen.

Slaine :

Two Lords, 2 Knights, 1 Coll-
 onel, 1 Lieutenant-Collonel,
 and three hundred and
 more Officers and Common
 Souldiers.

XXIX.

*A Letter from Colonell Generall Poyntz, to The Honourable
 William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons :
 concerning Sir Thomas Glenham, Colonell Gerard, and Sir
 Marmaduke Langdale, in the last fight neere Chester, with a
 perfect narration of Colonell Parsons of the said proceedings.
 And the number of horse and men taken in the pursuit, and
 which way His Majesty is fled.*

Die Lune, 29 Septemb., 1645.

*Ordered by the Lords assembled in Parliament that Col. Gen.
 Poyntz his Letter, with Colonell Parsons Relation be forthwith
 printed and published.* J. Brown, Cler. Parliamentorum.

London. Printed for John Wright, at the Kings head in the
 Old-baily. Sept. 30, 1645.

For the Right Honourable William Lenthall, Esquire,
 Speaker of the House of Commons.

Sir,

In the conclusion of a hard march it hath pleased God to
 deliver the enemy into our hands, wherein he hath sufficiently
 manifested his providence. Yesterday we discovered the enemy



on Millers heath within three miles of Chester, whereupon I sent to Chester for some foot, which was very seasonably sent me, and in my advance towards them we unawares met a body of them in a narrow passe on the top of the heath, where we had a very violent encounter, wherein we cut off many of the Kings Life-guard and routed the rest, then we retreated to our maine body, and toward foure of the clocke in the afternoon we advanced toward them, and finding the enemy ready for battell we presently fell upon them, kild, tooke, wounded, and routed the whole army, and I am confident they never received a greater blow. I have onely a Catalogue of few, the rest being sent to Tarvin and other garrisons in these parts, cannot as yet be collected. These Colonels, Sir Thomas Glenham, Sir Thomas Dacres, Sir Philip Musgrave, Sir Thomas Dawbridge-court, Sir Tho. Gower, Col. Tho. Weston, sonne to the Earle of Portland, and Col. Cromwell, Iames Martin, Quartermaster generall, Col. John Gifford, Lieutenant Col. Edward Hatton, and Lieut.-Col. Constable, Cap. Wyvell, Cap. Cottrill, Cap. Morgan, Cap. Mountaine, Cap. Le Strange, Cap. Swinho, and Cap. Constable. Its reported Sir Marmaduke Langdale is either killed or taken: you shall with all conveniency receive a compleat List from me. There was killed the Earle of Litchfield, brother to the Duke of Lenox, and Sir Brian Stapleton a notorious papist, who was lately in Ireland His Majesties sollicitor for ten thousand men. In this tender of my service I desire it may be forthwith communicated to the House, from whom I desire to receive further orders, in the meantime I shall continue thereabouts, using my endeavours in reducing this City, wherein, and in all other my endeavours, I shall ever rest,

Sir,

Your most humble and faithful servant,

Milers-heath,

Sednham Poyntz.

Septemb. 25, 1645.

Gerrard is deadly wounded if not already slaine.

This Gentleman Colonell Parsons having the charge of bringing up the reserves, has done very good service in the discharge thereof. I desire the House may think of some further incouragement for the Yorkeshire horse.

Col. Beathell and Col. Graves deserves very much for their services.

The Relation of Colonell Parsons communicated to both Houses of Parliament, Sept. 29, 1645.

About the 18 of August last, the King with about 4000 horse and Dragoones advanced into Yorkshire. The 19, Col. Rossiters horse came up to Generall Poyntz. The 21, they joyned with the Scots and Cheshire horse, a dayes rest the Scots horse would have, the next day all marched; But the King got by that meanes a dayes retreat before, whom Gen. Poyntz according to his Order from the Committee of both Kingdomes, through many difficulties pursued above 300 miles, not resting above a day in any place. – The knowledge of the Kings advance for the reliefe of Chester, being the onely certain intelligence he received of his motion, he marched day and night to be there before him, and tooke in a strong house with a Draw-bridge, moted, (which stood in the way of his march, and opposed him) in lesse than an houres space; And after a very hard march all night, on the 24 of this instant in the morning, his Van curriers discovered the enemy on a moore within two miles of Chester called Rowton-moore, whereupon immediately hee drew into Order, and advanced upon them (though all his force were not then come up) for he supposed to take the enemy at unawares, it being probable they could have no intelligence of his being so neare, though it proved otherwise, for his Letters (written that night to the Commander within the out-Lines of Chester, giving notice of his advance) were intercepted and the enemy being possessed of the advantage of ground, and in order confronted our van led by Colonell Hugh Bethell in the midst of a Lane betwixt two

Moore covered with the armed men of both Battalies, where was given a very sharp and gallant charge by both parties, for after Pistols were discharged at halfe Pikes distance, they disputed the matter with their Swords a full quarter of an houre, neither yielding ground to other, till at length the enemy were forced to retreat, whom, our men pursuing were re-encountred by a fresh reserve at the Lanes mouth, and they were likewise discomfited, and a third, but being overpowered were in the end forced to retreat in the Lane, uncapable of receiving a Reserve to second them : here we had some losse, the enemy pursuing to the Lanes end, but were beaten back, for there was space for our reserves to advance, Colonell Bethell and Colonell Graves were then sore wounded, after this the Generall perceiving the enemy lay upon his advantage, only skirmished him with some flying parties, while he held correspondency with his friends in Chester Suburbs, whose signe was the discharge of two peeces of Ordnance when they would issue out with horse and foot to joyne with him, upon whose appearing the enemy quitted their station, and the Generall with a party advanced to take the most convenient ground giving command to Colonel Parsons Quartermaster generall of the Army, Col. Sandies who performed the duty of Commissary Generall of the horse, during the aforesaid march being then employed to the Committee of both Kingdomes to order up the rest, which was opportunely done, for they joyned with the Auxiliary force of horse and foot in the enemies ground, and was drawn into many small divisions and reserves, being much over numbered by the enemy, who accompted themselves 5000 horse, and Gen. Poyntz not above 2500 horse, besides two small bodies of foot, who were disposed in the two outmost intervals of horse ; upon the very instant of this juncture the enemy advanced with their whole body, and the General (leaving the charge of the reserves to Col. Parsons) tooke care of, and led up the van divisions, with which after a round volley of shot from the foot, he joyned battell, charging the enemy in Front and Flank, where his horse was deeply

wounded on the head, being continually seconded with reserves as often as there was occasion, the rest being kept intire followed at a due distance ; The prevailing Generall who put the Enemy to a totall rout, and although the pursuit was as hot as could be expected from such wearied horse, through narrow dirty lanes and over ditches, the enemy ralied in a great moore wide of Chester in two vast bodies a great distance asunder, the first (not without some dispute) were againe routed, and the other likewise, who retreated upon the Warwick Regiment with such violence as bore them away confusedly, intermixed with the flying enemy up to the outworkes of the Suburbs, the Musketeers within were never the lesse liberall of their Gunshot, but the Divine Providence appeared much in the distribution of the impartiall Bullets, few or none lighting upon our men, though many of the Enemy were found there expiring.

A body of horse all the while of these last disputes appeared fixed on the top of a Hill, a little distant on that side Chester, wherein the King was very confidently reputed to be, for confronting whereof a party of foot winged with Colonell Lidcot, and Colonell Bethells Regiments were drawn into a convenient Close in the bottome as a grand reserve ; but the night by this time falling the body on the Hill appeared not, and those in the bottome returned to their comrades sated with slaughter, prisoners, and booty of the vanquished Enemy ; while these things were thus agitated in the field the remainder of foote left with Colonell Lowthian in the Suburbs were not idle, for the Enemy made a strong rally upon them out of the City, and were more strenuously repulsed, the number of the slaine of the prisoners and horse taken is not yet knowne, but is generally conjectured 800 slaine, 1500 men and 2000 horses taken, there was brought in that night the underwritten list, of the considerablest men taken and slaine in the fight, the King with a party of about five or 600 was seene going into Wales.

Prisoners taken.

Sir Thomas Glenham.	The Earle of Litchfield, brother to the Duke of Lenox, slaine.
Sir Thomas Dacres.	
Sir Philip Musgrave	James Martin, Quarter-master generall.
Sir Thomas Dabridgecourt.	Col. Iohn Gifford.
Sir Thomas Gore.	Leiut. Col. Edw. Hatton.
Col. Thomas Weston, sonne to the Earle of Portland.	Lieut. Col. Constable.
Col. Cromwell.	Lieut. Col. Wigmore.
Captaine—Wivell, Cotterill, Morgan, Mountaine, Le Strange, Swinoe, Constable.	Sir Bryan Stapleton (the Kings Agent for 10000 men in Ireland) slaine.
It is reported Sir Marmaduke Langdale is slaine.	

XXX.

A Horrible and Bloody Plot to Murder Sir Thomas Fairfax, Sir William Brereton, Sir Thomas Middleton, Colonell Moore, and above one hundred more of the Parliament Men, Colonels, and other Officers and Gentlemen, with the Names of the Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, and others that were chief Actors therein. The Copies of the severall Indictments, Bills, and other Parchments and Papers; and the Names of the Judges, Justices, and Grand Jury; and their proceedings therein. With Letters from the Committee of Chester, and other Gentlemen of the Country sent up about the same.

These are Copied out by the Originall Papers, delivered into the Committee at Goldsmiths Hall, and are printed and published according to Order of Parliament.

London. Printed by B. Alsop, for E. Griffin. 1646.

Sir,

You are desired to adde this to your former Labours for the

Common-wealth, to deliver the Packet herewith sent to the Honourable Committee at Goldsmiths Hall, London for Compositions: Here are copies of the Indictments preferred at the Assizes before the Judges at Chester, in February, 1642, whereby Sir Thomas Fairfax, Sir George Booth, Sir Will. Brereton, Sir Thomas Middleton, Sir William Fairfax, Col. Ashton, Col. Moore, Col. Mitton, and hundreds more stand indicted of high Treason, for taking up Arms, and adhering to the Parliament in this Warre, together with the Indictments: here is a List of the Jury that found these Indictments, there is about 18 of this Jury, that would never (that it can be remembred) appear upon any Grand Jury before this; which is very remarkable. Many of them now are compounding for their Estates, And it doth appeare that divers doe compound without a Certificate hence of the nature of their delinquency, &c. Mr. Brereton of Ashley who was one of this Jury, hath compounded already, and his delinquency uncertified or required. Here is a Copy of the Letter sent by the Committee for Compositions; by which you may be satisfied of the proceedings. When the Committee at Goldsmiths Hall are thus informed herein they know best what use to make hereof for the Common-wealth: Here is also a particular Indictment against Col. Moore, and the Exigent whereupon was returned outlawed, — Mr. John Wilson gave judgment thereupon, who is now compounding for his estate. If the Processe, Outlawries, and Returns had been taken out, it would have taken up so much labour and time, as I doubt they would not have been ready in any due time, such hath been the care and industry of the adverse Party in all their proceedings. You may observe what an inveterate hatred they have had against Sir William Brereton, who is indicted in every Indictment, And it may well be remembred they prepared an Engine or Instrument for him, if they had prospered at Middlewich Battell, when we took Sir Edward Moseley, Col. Ellis, and divers other Gentlemen of quality; at which time Sir Thomas Aston fled away: But I would not trouble you any further.

This is all at present herein, my other Letter being so large ;
onely I am

Your faithfull Friend and Servant,

Chester, July 4, 1646.

S. C.

Sir,

Your Letter per post I received whereby I understand you are informed, That the Committee at Goldsmiths Hall, doth compound with all men what ever Fact they have committed against the Commonwealth ; yea, though they have been Instruments to burn Towns and houses, to the destruction and ruine of whole Families, and have had their hands in blood, by whom many soules have suffered death ; And therefore you have forbore to deliver the Letter directed to Goldsmiths Hall, and the Indictments therewith sent ; Notwithstanding which, you are againe desired to take the pains to deliver them ; The Gentlemen here conceive they are bound in Conscience, and by their late Nationall Covenant, to doe their duty in their place, to bring Delinquents to condigne punishment, and can do no lesse right to themselves than to informe that Honourable Committee, being a Committee of the Members of Parliament in the Premises, who are Members in the making of the Law, and can best judge of condigne punishment, — You may doe them a noble favour ; And therein you shall engage me to remain

Yours to command

Chester, July 21, 1646.

S. C.

The Certificate from the Committee of Chester, to the Committee of London, concerning the Indictments against Sir Tho. Fairfax, Sir W. Brereton, and many others.

Honourable Sirs,

Amongst such Delinquents, as we the Committee for the City of Chester in order to our proceedings finde most notorious in this County : We cannot omit with respect to severall heads in

the National Covenant by us taken, and our duty to the Parliament, to publish and make known unto you the nature and quality of the Offences of certain Gentlemen transcendent in the eyes and judgment of the Body of this County far above others, though in hostility against the Parliament.

In February Anno Dom. 1642, after the Battell at Edg-Hill, the Assizes or great Sessions was held at the Castle of Chester, Judge Mellwood, and Justice Pretherough being Judges, Sir Richard Gravesnor high Sheriffe, Sir Richard Floyd the Kings Attorney, and Mr. John Wilson one of the Coroners of the County: At which Assizes there were indicted of high Treason Sir Thomas Fairfax, Sir George Booth, Sir W. Brereton, Sir T. Middleton, Col. Moor, the present high Sheriffe of Chester, and the rest of the Deputy Lieutenants of this County that stood for the Parliament, the Committees for the County, & for Sequestrations, and hundreds more of the well affected and faithfull to the Parliament in this county for taking up Armes and adhering to the Parliament in this Cause and Warre, All which were afterwards outlawed in the year 1643. The severall persons whose names are in a Schedule here inclosed being of that grand Jury, and did return upon the several Indictments Billa vera. Whereby so much as in them lay to bring these honourable persons and all the rest into a capacity subject to the greatest of punishment, by death, and perpetuall ignominy, their blood stained, and all their estates reall and personall forfeited: which proceedings being under the colour, and ground of a law, many have been further hardned in their principles and proceedings against the Parliament. All which Jury, saving three or four, it is not known have ever appeared, or would serve upon any grand Jury before that time. For your fuller satisfaction of the proceedings in the premises we have procured copies of the said Indictments, which herewith we present unto you desiring your mature consideration there-upon, in point of composition (if you shall think fit, to compound with them) who had determined (if it had pleased God to have

given them power through the County) to have prosecuted these Indictments in the strictest Letter thereof, wherein lay neither Pardon, nor Reprieve ; And withall to adde this further to your indefatigable labours, to make a report hereof, with the said Indictments and Proceedings to the Honourable House of Commons ; to the end order may be directed for the Indempnity of his Majesties loyall and faithfull Subjects who have stuck to the Parliament in an evill day, And such further proceedings may be made thereupon as in their grave judgments may be thought meet ; wherein you shall engage this County to serve you, And therein none more than

Your faithfull and humble Servants,

John Whitworth.

Ralph Judson.

John Whitle.

Sam. Buck.

Chester, July 21, 1646.

Chester.

Chester, *viz* :

The Jury for the Lord the King present upon their oathes, That William Brereton late of Handford in the County of Chester, Baronet, Thomas Fairfax late of Nantwich in the County aforesaid Knight, William Fairfax late of the same in the county aforesaid Knight, George Booth late of Dunham in the county aforesaid Esq. ; Will. Marbury late of Marbury in the county aforesaid Esq. ; George Spurstow late of Spurstow in the County aforesaid Esq. ; William Massie late of Massie in the county aforesaid Esq. ; Thomas Croxton late of Ravenscroft in the county aforesaid Esq. ; John Bromhall late of Nantwich in the county aforesaid Mercer, Richard Holland late of Middlewich in the county aforesaid Esq. ; Ralph Ashton late of Middlewich in the co. aforesaid Esq. ; Peter Leigh late of Tarvyn in the aforesaid county of Chester Iron-monger, John Booth of Dunham aforesaid, in the county of Chester aforesaid Esq. ; John Leigh late of Boothes in the County of Chester aforesaid

Esq.; Humphry Bulkley late of Whatcroft in the county of Chester aforesaid Esq.; Gilbert Gerrard late of Crewwood in the county aforesaid Gent. Thomas Hunt late of Tarvin in the aforesaid County of Chester Beere Brewer, Sam. Ratcliffe late of Tarvin aforesaid, in the co. aforesaid Beer-Brewer, Hugh Witney late of Coole in the county aforesaid Gent. John Cheswys late of Mickle in the county aforesaid Gent. Mathew Trevis of Tiverton in the county of Chester aforesaid Gent. Robert Duckenfield late of Duckenfield in the County of Chester aforesaid Esq.; John Trevis late of Horton in the county of Chester aforesaid gent. Richard Judson late of Rushton in the county of Chester aforesaid gent. Richard Leicester late of Pool in the county aforesaid gent. William Peare-tree late of Namptwich in the county of Chester aforesaid Clerke. Edward Bold late of Acton in the county of Chester aforesaid Clerke, Richard Foulter of Bartamley in the county of Chester aforesaid Clerke. Richard Oseley late of Waverham in the county of Chester Clerke. Peter Ince late of Christleton in the county of Chester aforesaid Clerke. Thomas Cotton late of Cotton in the county of Chester aforesaid Esqu. Robert Wright late of Tarvin in the county of Chester aforesaid pistor. William Davis late of Ashton in the county of Chester aforesaid gent. Alexander Elcock late of Poole in the County of Chester aforesaid, William Raven late of Elworth in the county of Chester aforesaid gent. John Lownes late of Smallwood in the County of Chester aforesaid gent. Richard Eaton late of Anlin (Audlem) in the county of Chester aforesaid clerke, Richard Brooke of Smalwood in the county of Chester aforesaid Yeoman, Ralph Poole late of Odrode in the county of Chester Yeoman, William Kent late of Shavington in the county aforesaid Yeo. John Hancocke late of Odrode aforesaid in the coun. of Chester aforesaid clerk, Thomas Slade late of Shavington (Shavinton) in the county aforesaid Yeoman. Richard Pevor of Odrode in the county of Chester aforesaid Yeoman. Robert Slade late of Shavington in the county of Chester aforesaid Yeoman, Mark Jaliwerver (Jelliceour) late of Shavington

aforesaid in the county of Chester aforesaid Yeoman, Thomas Stanley late of Alderly in the county aforesaid Esq; Peter Stanley of Alderly aforesaid in the Co: aforesaid Gentleman, Henry Varnon late of Haslington in the county aforesaid Esquire, William Watson late of Macclesfield in the county aforesaid gent. John Crew of Namptwich in the county aforesaid Yeoman, Robert Low late of Crowton in the county aforesaid yeoman. Peter Dod late of Tushington in the county aforesaid Yeoman, Allen Walley late of Kinderton in the county aforesaid Yeoman, William Bate late of Alvandley in the county aforesaid Yeoman, James Whitley late of the same in the county aforesaid Yeoman, William Walley late of Davenham in the county aforesaid Yeoman, Richard Tutchet late of Crowton in the county aforesaid Yeoman, Joseph Hall late of Frodesham in the County aforesaid Yeoman, John Miller late of Kingsley in the County aforesaid Yeoman, John Sorton late of Crowton in the County aforesaid Yeoman, George Edge late of Kingsley in the county aforesaid Yeoman, and Robert Blinston late of Netherton in the County aforesaid Yeoman, not having the fear of God before their eyes, nor regarding their due allegiance, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devill, utterly withdrawing the love as also the true affection and obedience which a true faithfull Subject of our Lord Charles now King of England, &c., towards Him their King, bear and are bound to bear. As also endeavouring, and with all their power striving the common peace and tranquility of this kingdom to disturbe, the 29 day of January, in the yeare of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c., the Nineteenth, at Namptwich in the said County, trayterously contrived, imagined, and intended a Rebellious War & Insurrection against the said Lord and King to raise and stir up within the Kingdom of England. And for the accomplishment of their said Intention, and to bring the same to passe; they the said William Brereton, Thomas Fairfax, &c. afterwards,

that is to say, the said twenty ninth day of January in the yeare aforesaid, against the peace of our said Lord and King, with force of Armes &c. at Namptwich aforesaid the said twenty-ninth day of Jan. with a great number of people unknown to this Jury, to the number of three thousand persons, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner, with Drums, Swords, Pikes, Guns, and other Armes, as well offensive as defensive, falsly and trayterously then and there together in a publike Warre against our said Lord and King at Namptwich aforesaid in the county aforesaid the said twenty-ninth day of January in the year aforesaid, trayterously ordered prepared and levyed against their Allegiance due to the great danger of the person of the said Lord and King, the subversion of this Kingdome of England, And against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity, and against the forme of the Statute in that case provided.

The Kings Attorney Prosecutor.

The Jury of Inquest.

The Bill is found.

Chester, *viz* :

The Jury for our Lord the King upon their oaths present that William Brereton late of Handford in the County of Chester Baronet, George Booth late of Dunham in the county aforesaid Knight and Baronet, Tho. Bromfield late of Witton in the county aforesaid Gentleman, Henry Brook late of Norton in the county aforesaid Esq.; Ralph Ardern late of Harden in the county aforesaid Esq.; Robert Gregg late of Hapesford in the county aforesaid Gent. Robert Gregg junior late of the same of the county aforesaid Yeoman, Nathaniel Lancaster late of Tarpurley in the county aforesaid Clark, John Rathbone late of Erby (Irby) in the County aforesaid Gentleman, Thomas Malbone senior, late of Namptwich in the county aforesaid Gentleman Thomas Malbone junior, late of the same in the county aforesaid Gentleman, George Malbone late of the same in the county

aforesaid Gentleman, James Gartside late of Tarvin in the county aforesaid Gent. Richard Golborn of the same in the county aforesaid Gent. John Bostock late of Tatton Hall in the county aforesaid Esq.; Roger Bradley late of Bradley in the county aforesaid Gent. Tho. Noden late of Namptwich in the county aforesaid Mercer, George Edgely late of Ashton in the county aforesaid Gent. Will. Edwards late of Tarond in the county aforesaid Mercer. Will. Edwards junior late of the same Gent. John Wynne late of the same Ironmonger, Rob. Venables late of Antrobus in the county aforesaid Gent. John Rutter late of Godcroft in the county aforesaid Gent. Richard Heath late of Frodsham in the county aforesaid yeoman, William Witter late of the same in the county aforesaid yeoman, Thomas Banner late of the same in the county aforesaid yeoman, Humph. Minshall, late of Kinderton in the county aforesaid Gent. Pet. Minshal late of the same in the coun. aforesaid Gent. Joseph Hall late of Frodsham in the co. aforesaid Gen. Humph. Johnson late of Nuton in the county aforesaid Gent. Gilbert Ireland late of Crowton in the county aforesaid Esq.; William Harrison late of Minshal Vernon in the co. aforesaid yeo. Ro. Farrington of Stanthorn in the county aforesaid yeoman, Thomas Basnet late of the same in the county aforesaid yeoman, William Walley late of Davenham in the county aforesaid Yeoman, Thomas Walley late of Shipbrook in the county aforesaid yeoman, Thomas Axon late of Leftwich in the county aforesaid yeoman, John Pierson late of Stanthorn in the county aforesaid yeoman, James Wright late of the same in the county aforesaid yeoman, John Milton late of Clive in the county aforesaid yeoman, Ralph Becket late of Nuton in the county aforesaid yeoman, Joseph Smallwood late of Sproston in the county aforesaid Webster, John Daniel late of Daresbury senior in the county aforesaid Gent. Will. Tomlinson late of Warton in the county aforesaid Gent. John Warburton late of Great Budworth in the county aforesaid Gent. William Johnson late of Frodsham in the county aforesaid Smith, & Ro. Pike late of

the same in the county aforesaid yeoman, and Gilbert Gerhard of Crew in the county aforesaid Gentleman, not having the feare of God before their eyes, nor regarding their due allegiance, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Divil, utterly withdrawing the love, as also the true obedience, which a true and faithfull subject of our Lord Charles, now King of England, &c. towards him their King, bear and are bound to bear; As also endeavouring and with all their power striving the common peace and tranquility of this Kingdome of England to disturb, the 18 day of July, in the year of the Raighn of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c. the 19 at Namptwich in the said county, trayterously contrived imagined and intended a rebellious Warre and Insurrection against the said Lord and King, to raise and stir up within this Kingdome of England: and for the accomplishment of their said Intentions, and to bring the same to passe, They the said Will. Brereton, George Booth, &c. afterwards, that is to say, the said 18 day of July in the year aforesaid, with force of Armes &c. at Namptwich aforesaid in the county aforesaid, against the peace of our said Lord and King, their supream, true and undoubted Lord, with a great number of people unknowne to this Jury to the number of three thousand persons, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner, with Drums, Swords, Pikes, Guns and other arms, as well offensive as defensive, falsly and trayterously then and there together in a publike warre against our said Lord and King at Namptwich aforesaid, in the County aforesaid, the said 18 day of July in the year aforesaid, trayterously ordered, prepared, and levyed against their allegiance due, and against the peace of our said Lord and King, his crowne and dignity, and contrary to the forme of the Statute in that Case provided.

The Kings Attorney Prosecutor.
The Great Inquest.
The Bill is Found.

Chester, *viz* :

The Jury for our Lord the King, present upon their oaths, That William Brereton late of Handford in the county of Chester, Baronet, Thomas Middleton late of Farndon in the said County Knight, Peter Egerton late of the same in the said county Esq; John Holcroft late of Tarvin of the said County Esquire (and many more in the indictment); not having the fear of God in their hearts; nor regarding their due Allegiance, but being seduced and moved by the instigation of the Divell, utterly withdrawing the love, true and due obedience, which a true and faithfull Subject of our Lord Charles now King of England, &c. towards our L. the King bear and are bound to bear, endeavouring, and with all their power striving, the common peace and tranquility of this Kingdome of England to disturb the 20 day of January, in the year of the Raighn of our Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith, &c. the 19 at Nampwich in the said county trayterously contrived, imagined and intended a rebellious warre and insurrection against the said Lord and King to raise and stirre up, and for the accomplishment of their said intentions, and to bring the same to passe, they the said William Brereton, Tho. Middleton, &c. afterwards, that is to say the said 20 day of January in the 19 yeare aforesaid by force of Arms, &c. at Namptwich aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, against the peace of our said Lord and King, their supream, true and undoubted Lord, with a great multitude of people unknown to this Jury, to the number of three thousand persons, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner, with Drums, Swords, Pikes, Guns, and other Armes, as well offensive as defensive, falsly and trayterously, then and there together gathered and assembled and a publike war against our said Lord and King at Namptwich aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, the said twentieth day of January, in the year aforesaid, trayterously ordered, prepared and levyed against their Allegiance due, to the great danger of the King's person and subversion of

this Kingdom ; and contrary to the peace of our said Lord and King, his Crown and Dignity ; and contrary to the forme of the Statute in that Case provided.

The Kings Attorney Prosecutor.

The Great Inquest.

The Bill is Found.

Chester, *viz* :

The Jury for the Lord the King present upon their oathes, That William Brereton late of Handford in the county of Chester Baronet, Andrew Blacon late of Weston magna in the said County &c. Not having the fear of God before their eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Divell, utterly withdrawing the love as also the true affection, which a faithfull Subject of our Lord Charles now King of England, &c. towards him their King, bear and are bound to bear ; As also endeavouring and with all their power striving the common peace of the Kingdome of England to disturbe the 29 day of January in the yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c. the 19 at Namptwich in the said County, trayterously contrived, imagined and intended a rebellious warre and insurrection against the said Lord and King to raise and stirre up within this kingdome of England ; and for accomplishment of their said Intentions, and to bring the same to passe, they the said W. Brereton, &c. afterwards that is to say, the 29 day of Jan. in the yeare aforesaid, with force of Arms, &c. at Namptwich aforesaid, in the county aforesaid against the peace of our said Lord and King their supream, true and undoubted Lord, with a great number of people unknown to this Jury, to the number of 3000 persons, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner with Drums, Swords, Pikes, Guns and other Arms, as well offensive as defensive falsly and trayterously then and there in a publike war against our

said Lord and King at Namptwich aforesaid in the county aforesaid, the said 29 of Jan. in the year aforesaid trayterously ordered and prepared against their Allegiance due, and against the peace of our said Lord and King, his Crown and Dignity ; and contrary to the forme of the Statute in that Case provided.

The Kings Attorney Prosecutor.

The Great Inquest.

The Bill is Found.

Examined with the Originall, By me Thomas Acton.

A Coppy of an Inditement against John Moore Esquire found by the Grand Jury.

The Jury for our Sovereign Lord the King, upon their Oathes do present. That Io. Moor late of Eston (Weston) in the County of Chester, not having the fear of God in his heart, nor considering his due allegiance, moved and seduced by the instigation of the devill ; the love, the true and due obedience, which a true and faithfull Subject of our Lord Charles now King of England, &c. towards his said Lord and King beareth, and of right is bound to bear, altogether withdrawing, and imagining and with all his power intending, the peace and common tranquility of this realm of England to disturbe, the 20 day of January, in the year of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, defender of the Faith, &c. the 19th at Weston in the said County, trayterously did contrive, imagine and intend War, Rebellion and Insurrection against the said Lord and King within this Kingdome of England, and the same did gather and stirre up, And to performe and bring to passe, such his Treasons, Imaginations and Intentions, The said John Moore, afterwards, that is to say, the said 20th day of January in the said year with force of Arms &c., at Weston aforesaid in the said County against the said Lord and King, his supream true

and undoubted Lord, with a great number of people to the Jury unknowne to the number of 100 persons, Armed and arrayed in a Warlike manner, that is to say, with Drums, Swords, Pikes, guns and other Weapons, as well offensive as defensive, falsly and trayterously then and there did gather and assemble together in a Warlike manner against the said Lord and King at Weston aforesaid, the said twentieth day of Jan. in the yeare aforesaid, Trayterously prepared, ordered, and levied, against the peace of the said now Lord and King, his Crown and Dignity, and contrary to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided.

The Kings Attorney prosecuteth the grand jury.
A true Bill.

The tenth of Febr. 19 Carol.

A Coppy of an Outlary against John Moore Esquire ; with the returne of the Coroner Com. Cestr.

Charles by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, &c. To our Sheriffes of Chester greeting. Wee command thee notwithstanding any liberty within thy county, but that thou cause John Moore late of Weston in the said County Esquire, to bee summoned to appeare untill according to the Lawes and Customes of the Kingdome of England, hee be Outlawed if hee appeare not ; and if hee doe appeare, that thou take and keepe him in safe custody, so that thou bringest his Body before our Justices of Chester the first day of the next Sessions of Chester at Chester to be held, to make answer unto us concerning divers Treasons, Rebellions and Insurrections, whereof hee the said John is indicted, and to doe and receive what our Court shall thinke fit concerning him. And from that time wee command our Justices of Chester at a certaine day to certifie the neglect of appearance of him the said John within thy Bailiwick. And

thou shall bring thither this Writ ; wittenes our selfe at Chester the tenth day of February in the nineteenth yeare of our Raigne.

By K. February, in the twentieth Yeare of King Charles.

The Sheriffes returne is thus Englished.

By vertue of this Writ to mee directed, to my County of Chester, held at Chester in the County of Chester, in the common Hall, for Pleas for that County, on Munday, that is to say the fourth day of March, in the yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord within written the nineteenth, the withnamed John Moore, had his first Summons and appeared not. At my County Court of Chester, held at Chester in the County of Chester in the common Hall for Pleas for the County aforesaid on Munday, that is to say, the first day of April in the yeare of the Raigne of our said Sovereigne Lord the Twentieth, the aforementioned John Moore had a second summons, but appeared not. At my County Court of Chester, held at Chester in the County of Chester, in the common Hall, for Pleas for the said County, on Munday that is to say, the nineteenth day of April in the yeare last mentioned, the said John Moore was summoned but appeared not. At my County Court of Chester, held at Chester in the County of Chester, in the common Hall for Pleas in the County, on Munday, that is to say, the seven and twentieth day of May in the Yeare last mentioned, the said John Moore was summoned, but appeared not. At my County Court of Chester, held at Chester in the Common Hall for Pleas for the said county, on Munday, that is to say the 24th of June in the Yeare last mentioned the said John Moore was summoned a fifth time, but appeared not. Therefore the said John Moore by the judgment of John Wilson Gentleman the Coroner of our Sovereigne Lord the King for the said County (according to the Law and custome of the Realme of England) is Outlawed.

Signed. Rich. Grosvenour Esquire Sheriffe.

This Writ (as it is indorsed) was delivered unto me, by the said Rich. Gravenour Esq., late Sheriffe of Chester, at his departure out of his Office.

Signed. Robert Tatton Esq.,
Sheriffe for the County of Chester.



The names of the Judges and Justices who appeared at Chester Assizes on the 5th day of February in the 19th year of the reign of King Charles.

Robertus Vicecomes Cholmondly.

Thom. Mildward mil. Justic. Cestr.

Richardus Pritherow Ar. alt. Just. Cestr.

Thom. Cholmley, Ar.

Richardus Brereton, Ar.

Emanuel Edwards, Ar.

Thomas Bromley.

Iohannes Werden, Ar.

Ionathan Woodnoth, Ar.

Iohannes Wilson, Coronator. Com. pred. tunc comp.

Willielmus Kelsall Gent. Capital. Constabul. Hund. de Broxon tunc comp.

Rd Tunna Gent. Capital. Constabul. Hund. de Brox[t]on tunc Comp.

Iohannes Robinson Gent. Capital. Constabul. Hund. de Worall tunc comp.

Christoferus Bennet Gent. Capital. Constabul. Hund. de Worall tunc Comp.

Fredericus Terry Gent. Bal. libertat. Hundred de Broxon tunc comp.

Willilemus Massey Mil. Bal. libertat. Hundred de Worall tunc comp.

Richardus Grosvenor Ar. vic. Com. Cestr. tunc.

The names of the Jury.

Hugo Cholmley de Culceley mil.

Henric. Bunbury de Staney Ar.

Richard Brereton de Ashley, Ar.

Y

Johan. Bellot de Morton, Ar. Petrus Leicester de Neith. Tabley Ar.

Hugo Wilbraham de Eccleston Ar.

Jonathan Woodnath de Shen-
ton Ar.

Thom. Trafford de Bridge
Trafford Ar.

Edmund Pessall de Over Ar.

Wil. Hassall de Hankelow Ar.

Wil. Brock de Upton Gen.

Laurenc. Wymington de Ar-
mitage Gen.

Richard Mallory de Mobber-
ley Gen.

Robert Weever de Cholmond-
ley Gen.

Elisha Mainwaring de Martyn
Gen.

Wil. Meyre de Meyre Gen.

Stanleus Burroughes de Tass-
ington Gen.

Petrus Hatton de Quisty-
birches Gen.

Johan Kelsall de Mickle Traf-
ford Gen.

Thom. Ponket de Bridge Traf-
ford Gen.

Johan Frygg de Whitby Gen.

Jacobus Hulwood de Sutton
Gen.

Robertus Waynright de Chris-
tleton Gen.

XXXI.

Die Lune, 23 August, 1647.

An Ordinance for the Reliefe of Chester.

Whereas the City of Chester is grievously infected, and visited with the Plague of Pestilence, in every Parish and part thereof, very few Families being cleare, be reason whereof almost all the Persons of ability have left the said City, and there are remaining (for the most part) only the poore that have no meanes of subsistence, being altogether deprived of Trading, which if they be not presently releevd in an extraordinary way, are like to perish for want, and to endanger the infecting the adjacent Counties. And whereas the Countie of Cheshire is exceedingly impoverished by the late War, whereby they are disabled for affording them any considerable reliefe; It is therefore Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, That the respective Ministers of every Parish, and Congregational Church within the Cities of London and

Westminster, the Lines of Communication, and Weekly Bills of Mortality, and within the Counties of Chester, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Southampton, Middlesex, Essex, Hertford, Cambridge, Suffolke, and Norfolke, doe upon the next Lords day after receipt of this present Ordinance, or the Copy thereof, publish the distressed condition of the poore Inhabitants of the said City of Chester, and earnestly move their people to contribute to so charitable a work, and that the summes so collected be paid by the Collectors thereof unto William Drink-water, and Robert Wilding, Citizens of London, their Deputy or Deputies. And the said William Drink-water, and Robert Wilding are hereby required forthwith to send such monies as they shall receive unto the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sherriffes of the said City of Chester, or any two of them, to be by them distributed to the poore Inhabitants of the said City ; and the said William Drink-water, and Robert Wilding shall take acquittances for such summes of money as they shall upon this collection pay to the said Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffes, or any two of them under their hands ; which Acquittances shall be a sufficient discharge to them for the same. And it is further Ordained, That the said Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffes, or any two of them, shall certifie unto the Committee of Accompts the totall summe which shall be received by them by vertue of this present Ordinance.

Joh. Brown, Cler. Parliament.

XXXII.

A Declaration of Sir George Booth, at the General Rendevouz, on Tuesday last, near the City of Chester, with the number both of Horse & Foot, their advance to the City, & the joyning of Col. Ireland with their Army. Also, the securing of the Castle, the Governours Resolution, and the mounting of the strong Walls, Bulworks, & Towers. Likewise the Names of the King of Scots

three Generals (or Chief Commanders) designed for the North, South and West of England; with a New Discovery of this great Design, the Names of severall Counties where they should have acted; the marching down of the Parliaments Forces, and the taking of divers Prisoners.

London. Printed for G. Horton. 1659.

A Declaration of Sir George Booth, at the General Rendesvouze on Tuesday last, near the City of Chester.

Sir George Booth formerly a Member of Parliament, and Knight of the shire for Lancashire, being very much dissatisfied in Judgment touching the present Transactions and Affairs, invited the Gentry in those parts to several Meetings, declaring his Resolutions for a Free Parliament, and a Single Person; and to that end, proposed several Particulars tending thereunto; amongst which, the putting of themselves into a posture of Defence was one; which took high with the Male-contented Party, and proved very effectual, divers Sparks appearing in this great Flame. Insomuch, that in few days they became numerous, many hundreds coming into them with their Arms:

The Gentry of Cheshire, as well as those in Lancashire, carried on this Design with abundance of Secresie, as well as Policy, and after a considerable time spent in private Liftings, and buying of Arms, the word was given for a general Rendesvouz, the place appointed at Routon-Heath within three miles of Chester, and the time prefixed was on Tuesday last; which day they accordingly met, being above three thousand Horse and Foot, well mounted and arm'd, with drums beating, Colours flying, and Trumpets sounding.

After they were all drawn up in the Heath, Col. Brooks and Col. Ireland divided the Horse and Foot into several Bodies, placing them in sundry Warlike Figures and Postures. After which, they were united, and brought into one intire Body, where Sir George made a speech to them, shewing the Grounds and Reasons of their present Engagement and Undertakings,

and withall (by several specious pretences) declared for a Free Parliament; publishing a Declaration for the same end and purpose, and several Invitations for all those that way affected to joyn with them, they holding a Correspondency with those of the same party in the City of Chester, who 'tis said, and frequently discoursed, set upon the City Gates, and gave them admittance.

Whereupon the Cavalry being exasperated, and growing mighty prevalent, Col. Croxton, the Governour betook himself to the Castle, and secured the Mounts, Bulworks and Batteries, mounting the Parliaments Colours and Ensigns upon the Battlements, being resolved to maintain and defend the same, according to the Trust reposed in him; and not to violate his Fidelity, upon the menacing Threats and Summons of any Party whatsoever, Darius Junior like, accounting nothing more sacred than faithfully to keep, and perform all his Leagues, Covenants, and Promises; and may fitly be ranked with that Renowned Souldier, and Noble Captain of Cæsar (Pontius Centurio) who being taken by Scipio, Pompey's Father in Law, had his life offered with an honourable place in Pompey's Army, if he would surrender, and leave Cæsar, and serve Heroick Pompey: But he stoutly answered Scipio, That though he thanked him kindly for his kind offer, yet that he would not accept of life upon such unequal conditions, choosing rather to die, than to falsify his Faith to Cæsar.

Many of the Citizens of Chester seem to embrace Neutrality, and decline both parties; but the major part affect New Changes, and are very Instrumental to promote the present Designs and Insurrections; which daily increase in those parts; but the timely care of the Council in sending several parties of horse and foot into those parts, may probably put no small stop to their great Career; besides, Col. Lilburn, and Col. West are united in Lancashire, and expect more Forces from London very suddenly; from whence four Regiments of Horse and Foot are said to march; and on Friday last several Red Coats were drawn

forth of each Company, both in the Tower and elsewhere, & were mounted for Dragoons upon the Horse brought in and seized of in divers Stables.

This design was laid and contrived in most Counties in England, their Policy (as supposed) being to draw the Souldiery from the City, that so the Citizens might be involved in Insurrections. But the Militia of London being settled in the hands of prudent Commanders, there is little fear of any Opposition ; considering their great vigilency, in publick Duty ; and the great care of the Parliament, in agreeing with the Council of State, That the several Militia Troops and Companies, That by Order from the Council have been raised in several Counties, Cities, and Towns, shall be paid equal with the Army for such time as they shall be employed, out of the Assessments. And that the Committee of the Army do grant their Warrant to the Treasurers of the Army for their payment accordingly.

By which means, the designs of many are frustrated ; and the publick peace preserved ; so that the present Affairs of such Counties where this first rising or Insurrection began in England is in a good posture, and need not fear an Invasion from abroad, or Internall Divisions amongst them at home ; The chief Actors and Conspirators being taken in most parts of England, except Cheshire, where some have been also taken going towards Beeston Castle.

Divers others being apprehended in adjacent parts, several papers have been seized, wherein is declared the justness of their Cause, in taking up of Arms, and their Resolution to vindicate and maintain the Freedom of Parliaments, against all Violence whatsoever, and the known Laws, Liberty, and Property of the good people of this Nation. But it is observable, That although they pretend for a Free Parliament, and a single Person, Law, Liberty, and Freedom, yet it hath and is arranged by the most desperate Persons, and Spirits of Division ; as Papists, Jesuits, and others. But the three principal Commanders designed for the three Quarters of England, are said to be Sir Marmaduke

Langdale's Son for Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumberland, Northumberland, Westmerland, Yorkshire, Lincoln, Derby, Nottingham, Stafford, Warwick, Northampton.

The second, is Major General Massey, who is said to be designed Commander in Chief of the Counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Wilts, Salop, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Worcester, Berks, Buckingham, and the rest of the Western Parts.

And the third is, the Lord Byron, for the Southern Parts, that is to say, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, Essex, Hartford, &c.

And divers other places. But the Design being discovered, their Actings are diverted, and all possible means used for apprehending of the chief Ringleaders.

As touching the re-taking of Col. Massey, it appears dubious, notwithstanding the great care taken therein; but true it is, that Lieu. Col. Armstrong was surprized near Shrewsbury, going towards Chester, and divers others; but the number of prisoners daily brought in are so many, that to give a particular List of their names and Designs would be too voluminous.

XXXIII.

The Lord Lambert's Letter to the Right Honorable the Speaker of the Parliament, concerning the Victory which it hath pleased God to give the Forces of this Commonwealth over the Rebels under Sir George Booth in Cheshire.

Read in Parliament, Monday, Aug. 22. To which is added a List of the Officers which are Prisoners, with the number of Soldiers and Colours taken; according to the Relation made by Captain Brown who was present in the Fight.

London. Printed by *Tho. Newcomb* over against Bainards Castle in Thames Street. 1659.

The Lord Lambert's Letter to the Right Honorable the Speaker of the Parliament.

Sir,

I have given the Council of State an account of our several

Proceedings, since the time that by their Commands we left London ; and having had nothing which I thought worthy your knowledge, I have refrained hitherto from giving you that trouble ; but now think it my duty to acquaint you how the good Hand of Providence hath lately appeared in an Engagement betwixt your Forces and the Enemy.

Upon the Lords day last, the two Regiments of Foot which marched from London, with the Horse under the Command of Col. Swallow, and Major Creed (being in all Nineteen Troops) united at Drayton in the County of Salop. But by reason of the weak condition of the Garison of Stafford (the safety whereof I judged very considerable) I sent back the Militia Troop under the Command of Captain Backhouse thither : Also, to the assistance of your friends in Derbyshire the Militia Troop of that County, and Capt. Sabbertons : And with the rest I marched to Namptwich in Cheshire on Monday last, where we staid two days, till four Companies of Col. Biscoes Regiment, and one troop of my Regiment came up to us, and three troops more of Col. Lilburn's, and two Companies of Col. Ashfield's, were advanced as far as Uttoxeter.

Upon Thursday morning, although it proved very unseasonable for Rain, yet judging your service required expedition, and finding a great resolution in the Soldiery to encounter all difficulties, according to former resolution upon full debate with the Superior Officers, resting upon the Providence of God, we advanced towards Chester : and being marched about five miles, we had certain intelligence, that the enemy, with about four or five thousand horse and foot, were marched towards Northwich ; which caused us to alter our resolutions, and to march directly toward the forest of De la More, over which they were to pass ; and being arrived thither, we had notice that they were about three miles before us.

Your Forces marched with that cheerfulness, that had we had day enough, we should in all probability have ingaged them before they had reached Northwich, but doe what we

could, we only gained a view of their Rear-guard in the duske of the Evening, and took three or four Prisoners. That night they quartered at Northwich, and we at a small village called Weeverham ; from whence the next morning we advanced very early towards them, and before we had march't a mile, we discovered them both Horse and Foot, half a mile on this side Northwich, drawing amongst the inclosures, where it was impossible for Horse to doe service, and not without difficulty for the Foot to break through. We presently engaged them, and after a short dispute they quitted their grounds, and retreated from hedge to hedge, yet in that order as they suffered very little damage, it being impossible for our horse to fall in amongst them, and at length came to Winington-bridge, behind which they retreated, without any other loss than that of Reputation, and discouragement in meeting with those whom they found of equal courage, but engaged in a better Cause. Their next endeavour was to secure that Bridge, which they had good reason to hope for, considering the advantages they had both in regard the River was unfordable, the Bridge narrow, flank'd with a strong ditch on the Farr end, and a high Hill, up which no horse could pass otherwise than along the side in a narrow path. But the Forces having their former courage encreased by seeing the presence of God with them, fell on as if they had been upon equall Terms ; and after a short dispute, the Enemy having spent two or three good volleys, our men still advancing upon them, they quit their station and gave way, for both horse and foot to march over : Our horse, which hitherto had been useless to us, advanced over the Bridge, together with some Foot. The Horse made towards a party of theirs, which I judged was of their choicest, and came to secure the Retreat of their Foot ; and the Foot scrambling up the Hill after their Retreating Colours, our Horse charged, but by reason of the narrowness of the way, in small parties. To speak truth, that of the Horse was performed on both sides like Englishmen ; but ours got the better, and the Enemy turned their backs.

We had the pursuit of them above a quarter of a mile, where they again made Head, but were routed, and thereupon their Horse and Foot fled on all hands, and our work was only to give them Chase. Most of their Foot got into Inclosures, and escaped, our wearied Foot not able to overtake them, nor possible for the Horse to get to them. Their Horse divided, some towards Chester, and some towards Warrington; we had the pursuit as far as Frodsham and Warrington, where they could proceed no further, the latter being garrisoned with four Companies of Foot and a Troop of Horse.

The Enemy had left this while in Northwich two Companies of Foot and two Troops of Horse; which when I understood, I sent the Adjutant-General, with Capt. Evanson's Troop, and a Troop of Dragoons, who advancing up to the bridge and firing upon them, the Enemy drew off in good order, but not being able to make their retreat, was routed and pursued within two or three miles of Manchester. And though I cannot say your Victory was great in respect of prisoners or men slain, yet I judge it a total Rout, or which by the providence of God may be improved to so much. I cannot hear that we have above one man slain outright, and not above three dangerously wounded: Of the Enemy not above thirty slain; of prisoners I have no full account as yet, but I suppose about three hundred, whereof most Horsemen, and some Field Officers of quality: I shall upon better information give you an account thereof. The Enemy reported themselves to be above four thousand, but to our view there never appeared above Two. The service done by the Foot was chiefly perform'd by Col. Hewson's Regiment. The same day we march'd with the Foot back to Northwich, where upon consideration of your affairs we have determined to divide your Forces; Col. Ashfield, with his Four Companies, Lieut. Col. Duckenfield (who shewed himself a worthy servant this day to you and his country) with part of Col. Hewson's Regiment, and a convenient number of Horse, to march for Lancashire, where, if there be any Root left for renewing this

Rebellion, I judge it lies. I have likewise writ to Col. Lilburn who is with some Horse and Foot about Wakefield, to unite with them if they see cause. The other part of your Forces I intend to march towards Chester, having received this day a Message from Col. Croxton, Governor of the Castle, by one of his Soldiers who swam the River and came to me, that he cannot for want of Victuals hold out longer. I have likewise ordered Col. Jerom Zanke with the Irish Forces, who by common fame I hear is landed at Beaumarris, to advance with all speed towards Shrewsbury and to expect further orders there in prosecution of the reducement of Chester, (which if your occasions may not require them elsewhere, I desire you will please to confirm). The Enemy left there Four Companies of Foot, a Troop of Horse, besides what escap'd thither from the Fight near Northwich, and what that disaffected City will afford in Townsmen.

I shall here take the boldness to represent to you the great necessitie of the Souldiers by want of pay, we being to issue that small portion we had after the rate of six pence a day, and already well nigh spent, so as Shoes, Stockings, and other Necessaries in their long and dirty marches cannot be provided for. Your former care in this assures me I need say no more, and therefore shall break off this discourse, wherein (may be) I have mentioned many particulars not worthy your notice, and shall beg of God that he will direct your Counsels to such things, as may be for his glory, and suitable to these great mercies bestowed upon you: Assuring you that what may further concern your service in these parts, shall be diligently performed by

(Sir)

Your most faithful and humble Servant,
Northwich, Aug. 20, 1659. J. Lambert.

Whitehall, Monday, August 22.

The foregoing Letter was brought by Capt. Brown, of Col. Hewson's Regiment, who was in the Engagement, came from

thence on Saturday-noon, and arived yesternight about Midnight, and relateth: That Sir George Booth flying with some Horse toward Chester, was pursued by Major Creed within two miles of the City. Another party of them running towards Manchester, were pursued by Col. Swallow; and Col. Ireland, with about an hundred Horse, ran towards Leverpoole. He saith, their Horse at first were a gallant Body, betwixt 17 and 1800. The Officers which were taken Prisoners before he came away, he names as followeth, viz.

Col. Massey of Cheshire.
Major Harrison, lately a Capt.
of Col. Gibbons Regiment.
Capt. Philip Egerton.
Major James Scotfield.
Capt. Martland.
Capt. Smith.
Cornet Grosvenor, son of Sir
Richard Grosvenor.
Capt. Cosel.

Lieut. Davies.
Ensign Ward.
Ensign Langshaw.
Lieut. Seare.
Cornet Gill.
John Bromley of Wolver-
hampton, Gent.
Capt. Stutly.
Capt. Davies.

That the number of private Soldiers taken were 236. About 30 Colours, and good store of Horse.

Their word, he saith, was Have at all. Ours, God with us.

This was the account of things, as they stood at the time of his coming away; Our Forces being then upon pursuit of the Enemy several waies.

XXXIV.

A Second, and a Third Letter from the Lord Lambert, dated at Chester, August 21, and read in Parliament, Tuesday, August 23, the one directed to the Speaker of the Parliament; the other, to the Lo: President of the Council of State; together with a Letter from Major Edm. Waring, Governor of Shrewsbury, of

the same date. Wherein is set forth the Manner of the Surrender of Chester, with the Names of the Principal Persons taken Prisoners, and the state of Affairs concerning the issue of this Rebellion.

London. Printed by *Tho. Newcomb*, over against Bainard's Castle in Thames Street. 1659.

The Lord Lambert's Letter to the Right Honorable the Speaker of the Parliament.

Sir,

Being according to those Resolutions I last acquainted you with, upon our march towards Chester, we were met by two persons from that City, who were instructed to offer some Terms of surrender thereof; I suppose upon fear, least the Town should become a Prey to the Soldiers. Having heard what they had to say, I called together divers of the Officers, and acquainted them therewith, who advised me to this Answer; That if they would set open their Gates on the morrow by Ten of the Clock, submitting themselves wholly to the Parliament, and receive in such Forces as should be appointed, I would engage that no Soldier by violence should take any thing from them; And lastly, That I would attend for their answer till eight of the Clock the next morning, without any further action. Whereupon the Enemy finding themselves incapable to stand upon their own defence, and the City declining all further assistance, that night in confusion, in small parties, they left the Town, and about Ten of the Clock, finding the Gates open, we marched in with our Regiment of Foot, and two Troops of Horse. Upon my march thither, I met with two Inhabitants from Leverpoole, and one Mr. Brown who had formerly been in your service, who upon the route of the Enemy, got some well affected together, and took divers prisoners of the routed forces, which had fled that way. They inform me that that Town hath continued very faithful to your service, and that the Governor appointed by the Enemy, did assure them before hand, That he would keep that

place for your service, and hath now declared for you. Before I had this information I sent Major Hoare with three Companies of Foot, of Col. Hewson's Regiment, and three Troops of Horse to reduce that place, whom I have ordered notwithstanding this, to proceed according to his former instructions, and having secured that place by putting in some of his men to march up to a conjunction with the rest of that Regiment in Lancashire, in case they should meet with any opposition there. It is the earnest desire of those persons, that the Castle may be demolished, which I humbly conceive may be for your service, and pray your directions therein. I have sent a Summons to Harding Castle which I hope will be delivered ; It is likewise the desire of some of the well affected in these parts, that the Castle may be demolished, which I likewise submit to your consideration. Sir Thomas Middleton yesterday past over the Ferry at Ronckhorne, and came to this Town, and as I am informed, is gone to Chirk Castle. I have sent thither a Summons, and have accompanied it with three Troops of Horse, and four Companies of Foot, under the Command of Colonel Biscoe and intend (if it please God to give a Blessing to your forces gone into Lancashire) to go thither myself to morrow, I doubt not but the Insurrection in these parts will be wholly broken.

I have no more at present worthy your knowledge, and therefore shall onely on their behalf desire, That the Forces may be supplied with some proportion of pay, whereof at this time they stand in great need. Sir, I shall humbly subscribe

Your most faithful and most humble Servant,

J. Lambert.

Chester, August 21, 1659.

Sir,

The enclosed is a List of some Gentlemen and Prisoners taken in the Fight. The Soldiers exprest great zeale in this

service ; many lost and spoiled their horses, whereof I humbly desire your consideration.

The Lord Lamberts Letter to the Right Honorable the Lord President of the Council of State.

My Lord,

I take the freedome to refer your Lordships to mine, to the Parliament of the 21 instant, for an accompt of our proceedings with the City of Chester, which is now possest by your Forces. I find this City hath shewn itself very malignant, and those few Friends you have are in great expectations, that you will put the Power of this place as well Civil as Military, into such hands as may be faithfull to you, and a security and protection to them. In which I humbly offer that some effectuall course may be speedily taken. If there be any thing in these parts which may require my further service and attendance, I shall desire your speedy commands therein, which shall be most readily observed by

My Lord

Your Lordships most faithfull humble Servant,
J. Lambert.

Chester, August 21.

The Governor of Shrewsbury's Letter to the Right Honorable the Lord President of the Council of State.

Right Honorable,

No sooner was the Post gon hence yesterday, but a party of my Troop returned from my Lord Lambert, who went to Convoy him some Money from this Town, and were present in the Fight about Northwich, and gave me Assurance that my Lord had dispatched away an Express to your Honors, with an Account of that Affair, to which I humbly referr your Honors. Just now, the Messenger that I sent your Letter by, directed to

Col. Croxton this day fortnight, returned back, who came forth of Chester last night at Ten of the Clock ; and before he left the City, Sir Tho. Middleton, the Lord Kilmorey, with other Gentlemen, with 5 Colours of Horse, made no small haste from Chirke-Castle to Chester. The Foot that were in the Town mutinyed, threw open the Gates, tore their Colours, and Sir George Booth fled out of the North-gate ; they only kept a slight Guard at the Gates, being drawn from the other Guards in confusion, and left them in the Castle to their own liberty. He assures me, when he came from thence, the Enemy were resolved to shift for themselves: I held it my duty to hasten this Account. I have sent the Horse forth this Garrison, since yesterday noon, who are not yet returned. By the Letter I received from my Lord Lambert this day, for covert to one, which I despatched from him to Col. Zankey, I was given to know, That he divided his Army, and intended to march one part towards Chester, the other for Warrington. Just now at Writing, a Boy of this Town, now fled home, confesseth, he was under one Captain Shenton, who dismiss his Company last night at Chester, and bad them shift for themselves. I crave your favor for my rude Lines: remaining engaged to serve you

Edmund Waringe.

Shrewsbury, 21 August, 1659,
Ten at Night.

The principal Prisoners as yet known, since the last, are :—

The Lord Kilmorey ; Major Peter Brook, an Apostate Member of the Parliament ; Sir William Neile ; Major-General Randolph Egerton ; Sir Thomas Powel of Flintshire.

There were about 400 others, Prisoners, when the Captain, (viz. Captain Spilman) took charge of these Letters, who came from Chester on Monday morning, the 22 instant.

XXXV.

Another great Victory obtained by the Lord Lambert against Sir George Booth, on Sunday morning last ; with the manner of His taking the City of Chester, and throwing open the Gates ; the taking of Five Hundred prisoners, and divers eminent Commanders ; viz. Maj. Gen. Egerton, The Lord Kilmurrey, Col. Brooks, and Sir Wil. Neal. As also another Desperate Fight at Liverpool ; the taking of the Town ; the beating and pursuing of the enemy towards Wales ; and the Escape of Sir George Booth, with 200 Horse, to Cherk Castle.

London. Printed for *Edw. Horton*, 1659.

Another Great Victory obtained by the Lord Lambert, against the forces of Sir George Booth ; and the taking of the City of Chester.

The Parliament having received a Letter from the Lord Lambert, giving an Account of the Defeat and routing of the Forces under the command of Sir Geo. Booth, near Northwich in Cheshire, another Express likewise came on Tuesday morning, of their taking of the City of Chester ; a perfect narrative whereof, together with the Dispute and Engagement, we shall here impartially communicate, viz. :

The Lord Lambert understanding that Sir George Booth was marching towards him with an intention to fight, drew out his Army into Battalia on Friday morning last, near Northwich, where the Enemy quartered that night ; who being discovered, drew out of the Town amongst the Inclosures, where it was impossible for horse to do service, and not without difficulty for the Foot to break through. Nevertheless the Lord Lambert presently drew out a party to engage them, and after a short dispute, and some small skirmishes, (but gallant vollies), they quitted their grounds, and retreated from hedge to hedge, yet in that order as they suffered very little damage, it being impossible for our horse to fall in amongst them ; and

at length drew back to Winington Bridge, behind which they retreated, without any other loss than that of Reputation, and discouragement in meeting with those whom they found of equal courage, but engaged in a better Cause. Their next endeavour was to secure the Bridge, where they drew up their Foot on both sides, and their horse upon a Hill behind them; great Advantages they had, both in regard the River was unfordable, the Bridge narrow, flanker'd with a strong Ditch on the Farr-end, and the Hill so high, up which no horse could pass otherwise than along the side in a narrow path. But the Van of our foot, which was Col. Henson's Regiment, advanced up with three Troops of horse within half Pistol shot, receiving two vollies of shot from the Enemy: Upon which we charging, the Enemies foot threw down their Arms, quit their station, and fled to their horse, scrambling up the Hill after their flying Colours. Major Creed pursued with a party of horse; and marching up the Hill in pursuance of the Enemy, who had rallied some foot on the top of the Hill, they fired on him, but he answering their charge, their horse fled. But, to speak truth, they fought gallantly at the first; and, to the fame of both it may be said, the action on the horse was performed on both sides like Englishmen. We had the pursuit of them above a quarter of a mile, where they again made Head, but were routed, and thereupon their Horse and Foot fled on all hands, and our work was onely to give them chase. Most of their Foot got into Inclosures, and escaped; our wearied Foot not able to overtake them, nor possible for the horse to get to them.

During the time of this Dispute, the enemy had left in Northwich two Companies of Foot, and two Troops of horse; which when the Lord Lambert heard of, sent the Adjutant General, with Cap. Evanson's Troop, and a Troop of Dragoons, who advancing up to the bridge and firing upon them, the enemy drew off in good order; but not being able to make their retreat, was routed, and pursued within two or three miles of Manchester. For the number slain and hurt, we shall refer

you to the Letter hereunto annexed, sent from a Surgeon in the Army, to his Friend in London; a true Copy whereof followeth :—

Sir,

I am now (blessed be God) furnished with Newes for you: no less than the routing and total defeating of Sir George Booth's Army this day. Yesterday we marched from Nantwich, (having stayed for some time there to refresh our men, and the coming up of the rest of our Foot) intending to march to Tarpoley within seven miles of Chester: but understanding by some Warrants of theirs; by which they had required Provisions to be brought to them that morning for 5,500 Foot and Horse; that they were for a March; and having certain Intelligence they marched towards Northwich, my Lord altered his first Intentions, and marched after them over the Forrest of Delamore: and when we were a little entred upon the Forrest, we discerned their Body; It being a fine Champion, we made all the haste we could: but they marched off the Forrest before we could come up; onely our Scouts fell upon their Rear, and took some prisoners; but night coming on, hindered any further action; and so we marched into Waram, and they into Northwich, two miles distant. This morning we drew out as soon as we could see, & gave them a great Alarm, and drew into Battalia upon Hartford Green, between Waram [Weaverham] and Northwich towards us, as though they would have fought; but we pressing upon them, their Van marched over Winnington Bridge leading to Warrington, thinking to escape us: but We fell on upon their Rear, and put them to flight: They thought to have kept the Bridge, which was of great advantge to them, and disadvantage to Us; they having at the end of the Bridge, Hedges and a Bank: yet after a short Dispute, our Foot undauntedly marched over the Bridge, and put them to rout, up a high Hill, where their Horse were drawn up, and the hedges lined with Foot; from whence also they were quickly beat, and put to a total rout, throwing

down Arms & Colours, and we had the pursuit of them a great way in Lanes and Inclosures: Their Foot are all broke and disperst; If it had been a Champion Countrey, few of them had escaped to carry home Newes. One party of them fled to Chester, and another to Warrington; the Horse are still in the pursuit of them: One is returned from our horse, who brings word, that Major Creed pursued them within five miles of Chester, and went still on. Our wearied Foot returned here from the pursuit about twelve or one of the clock to Quarters. Here are in the Church about 200 prisoners. I cannot give you particulars, divers are killed: I do not know or hear of any we have had killed, and but a few wounded, and I hope none mortally; I was with them, and drest some few. We had a fore March upon Thursday, but God carried us thorow all; and with that Courage and Alacrity, that I have not seen. Our Men went on with such shouts and Acclamations, that I think astonished the Enemy. The terror of the Lord of Hosts was surely upon them. Communicate this, that God may have the glory. I rest, &c.

My Lord marches to morrow to Chester, and also sends a smart party to Warrington and Manchester.

Northwich, Aug. 19, 1659.

Postscript.

The Enemy left in Chester four Companies of Foot, a Troop of Horse, besides what escap'd thither from the Fight near Northwich, and what that disaffected City will afford in Townesmen. Sir George Booth flying with some horse toward Chester, was pursued by Major Creed within two miles of the City. Another party of them running towards Manchester, were pursued by Col. Swallow; and Col. Ireland, with 100 horse, ran towards Liverpool. Their Horse at first were a gallant Body, about 1800. The Officers taken prisoners are, viz. Col. William Massey, Major Harrison, lately a Capt. in the Parliaments Army, Capt. Philip Egerton, Major James Scotfield, Capt. Martland, Capt. Smith, Sir Richard Grosvenor's son, Capt. Cosel,

Capt. Stutley, Capt. Davies, Lieut. Davies, Lieut. Seare, Cornet Gill, Ensign Ward, Ensign Langshaw; and John Bromley, of Wolverhampton, Gent. The number of private Souldiers then taken were 236, 30 Colours, and many Horse.

Their word was, Have at All. Ours was, God with us.

The Lord Lambert pursuing this seasonable Victory, on Saturday last in the afternoon sate down before Chester; And on Sunday morning the Citizens opened the gates to let him in, being welcomed with several Vollies of shot from the great guns in the Castle, and joyfully entertained by Col. Croxton the Governour. The Horse and Foot left by Sir George Booth to maintain the City, are most of them taken, 500 being prisoners, as also divers eminent commanders; among whom are, Major General Egerton, The Lord Kilmurrey, Collonel Brooks, Sir William Neal.

Sir George Booth is fled with 200 horse to Cherk Castle; and Col. Ireland, and some of the great Ones to Liverpool. The Lord Lambert hath secured Chester, and is in pursuit of them with a considerable party of Horse and Dragoons towards North Wales. The hearts of the enemy begin to melt like water within them, and Liverpool offers to surrender. The rest are in a languishing condition, and know not where to take Sanctuary; there being no means left unassayed, to prevent their imbarquing beyond the Seas.

Thus may we see the Lord eminently continuing his wonted hand of mercy, toward them that fear him, and so apparently blasting the Traiterous undertakings of Adversaries, in every Corner of the Countries.

Since the receipt of this News another Messenger arrived at White-hall, on Tuesday the 23 instant, in the afternoon, who advertizeth, That Col. Ashfield, and Lieut. Col. Duckenfield, with a Party of horse and foot, beat upon the Enemies rear, in their Retreat to Liverpool; and pursuing so close, fell upon them in the Town, beat them out, killed some, took divers prisoners; the rest fled towards Cherk Castle, but are close pursued.

XXXVI.

A true Narrative of the Manner of the taking of Sir George Booth, on Tuesday Night last, at Newport-Pannel, being Disguised in Womans Apparel, with his Speech to Mr. John Gibbs, Minister of the Town, upon the entring of His Chamber. Likewise, the Parliaments Resolve touching the said Sir George; And the Order for Committing of Him a Close Prisoner to the Tower of London for High-Treason, on Wednesday in the Evening; and to be kept from having the use of Pen, Ink, or Paper. Also, his Examination in the Tower, by Sir Henry Vane, and Sir Arthur Haslerigg; According to Order of Parliament.

London: Printed for *Thomas Richardson*, 1659.

A True Relation of the Manner of the taking of Sir George Booth, on Tuesday night last, at Newport-Pannel, disguised in Womans apparel, &c.

On Tuesday Night about 7 of the Clock, came to Newport-Pannell two Gentlemen, and took up a Room for some Gentlemen and Gentlewomen (as they said) that were coming upon the Road; the Inn-keeper shewed them one Room after another, but none pleased them, till at last, one Room that was within another they accepted of, being one of the Inferiour Lodgings as was in the House: at last, came one man more, and one in Womans Habit; the Inn-keeper being in the yard, offered the Civility of helping the supposed Gentlewoman down: but she refused, and leapt off from the horse, and went from him. At last, the Inn-keeper made up to Her and the Gentlemen, and askt, If they did not belong to a Company that already were in his House?

They denied it; but at the last, the Servants leading them out of one Room into another, one of the Gentlemen that were there before, took acquaintance of the Gentleman that came with the supposed Gentlewoman: Sir, said he, I have seen you before

now, It's like you have said the other, at last they proved to be acquainted, and the two Rooms that they had bespoke, and taken up, they were Invited to; as Also to take part of their Supper, which was two Joints of meat. Whilst Supper was making ready, they sent for a Barber, and the three men were all trimmed by him, and one of them taking a Razour out of the Case, and asked the Barber what he would take for it: he answered, That he could not sell one out of his Case, because it would mis sort his other Instruments, but saith he, I have one at home, What will you have for it? replied the Gentleman, Half a crown, said the Barber.

So he bid him bring it, together with a Wash-ball: Now, Supper is ready, some of the maid Servants came to offer their Services to the supposed Gentlewoman; who was all this while in the Inner Room, and refused to be helped in any manner, as to have her Hoods, Scarfs, or Safe-guard, put off, but lay upon the bed: One of them called her Mrs. Dorothy, and asked if she could eat any supper. After Supper they retired themselves into the Inner Room, having called for Water, Pipes, Tobacco, Wine, Chamberpot, and other Necessaries; they shut the Doors to them, and set a Screen before the door of the Inner Room, that went to a back pair of staires. The Inn-keeper perceiving all this, did suppose that then they were shaving the supposed Gentlewoman, Mrs. Dorothy, as it appeared afterwards: Upon this he went to a Kinsman of his, an Apothecary in the Town, and consulted what to do.

Immediately they got two Constables together, and told them that he had suspicious persons in his House. One of them he was confident by several Circumstances, that he and his servants, observed was a Man in Womans apparel: The Constables got together thirteen or fourteen Persons well armed, Sword, and Pistols, and set a Guard upon the Back-stairs of five men, and they went up and demanded them to open the Door. They attempted to escape at the Back-staires, but being prevented by the Guard placed there, they called for Quarter; The

Apothecary afore mentioned came up to Mrs. Dorothy, and set a Pistol to her Breast ; she called for quarter. He demanded whether she was a Woman or a Man, She answered, If that he would spare her life, she would tell him. Speak the truth, said he, and I will.

Thereupon she said, She was a Man. As you are a Gentleman tell me the truth. I am, said he, That unfortunate Gentleman, Sir George Booth. At which saying it did much amaze the Guard that secured him, being all Townsmen ; but they disarmed them, and secured them ; and one of the Constables went to raise the Town, got them ready, and brought two of them to St. Albanes that night, and sent other two to Alesbury by another party ; On the way Sir George did discourse very freely, and ingenuously did acknowledge he was misled and deluded by the Gentry, who promised him to ayd him: he is now in custody in the Tower of London, and one of his Servants in the Serjeant at Arms hands ; the other two are coming up from Alesbury.

By the Parliament.

Ordered, That Lieut. General Fleetwood do forthwith send a sufficient Guard for the safe conducting of Sir George Booth to the Tower of London, and there to deliver him to the Lieutenant of the Tower, to be by him kept close Prisoner for High Treason, in levying War against the Parliament and Commonwealth, and that no Person be suffered to speak with Him without leave of the Parliament or by direction : and that he be kept from having the use of Pen, Ink, and Paper. And it being referred to a Committee to take his Examination in the Tower ; Sir Arthur Hasilrigg, and Sir Henry Vane, was ordered to examine him, and report his Examination to the House.

It is Ordered, That the Persons taken in the company of Sir George Booth be forthwith sent for and secured, with all the Papers and Writings about them.

XXXVII.

Sir George Booth's Letter of the 2nd of August, 1659. Shewing the reasons of his present Engagement.

London : Printed in the yeare 1659.

Sir,

I think my selfe, and the Gentlemen, and others you know to be now engaged with me, have no hopes, by new troubles, to better our present condition.

With thankfullness we may say it, God hath made our lot larger than our desires in that kinde, and we suppose by that blessing put an obligation upon us, as we are considerable members of our Countrey, to have more sober and courageous thoughts in time of extremity than other men have.

And though the indifferency that lies upon other mens spirits might flat ours; yet we cannot thinke, but if it were represented to them, how the present power doth oblige us to put out our right eyes when they require us to acknowledge them as a Parliament, and lay upon us such heavy and grievous burthens, and such deceitfull ones as a yeares Tax in three moneths, besides the many other impositions for Excise &c. and by raising among us a Militia, they cut off our right hand by subjecting us under the meanest and fanatick spirits of the Nation, under pretence of protection, their spirits would be warmed into the same zeale that ours are kindled with.

Now consider what it is we aske, and consider whether it be not the same thing we have asserted with our lives and fortunes, A free Parliament.

And what a slavery it is to our understanding, that these men that now call themselves a Parliament, should declare it an act of illegality and violence in the late aspiring Generall Cromwell, to dissolve their body in (53) and not to make it the like in the garbling the whole body of the Parliament from 400 to 40 in 1648. What is this but to act what they condemne in others,

Why doe they associate themselves to the present Army, or indeed to the present Commanders in Chiefe, and keep out their numerous and fellow-members : if committing violence upon a Parliament be so notorious a crime ?

And how doe they teach the Souldiers boldly to do that, which themselves practice, and make them instruments of ? what is this but under another shape to act the condemned acts of Usurpation and Tyranny in their old Generall ? what is this but to necessitate men to complaine ? And upon complaint to be invaded by their power, so to raise (if the English spirits be not dissolved into baseness and aptitude for slavery) a civill warre ; and to endeavour to water their owne roote with the blood of many thousands of their Countreymen, or to gape after those confiscations, which by a victory upon presumption of the unity of their Army they hope to gaine over all those that dare with danger assert their liberties (which presumption yet may faile them ; for the Souldier hath and may declare himselfe no Mercenary, but an English Freeman ; which indeed though it be now contrary to his actions, may returne to his thoughts againe.

And what will be the issue of all this ? A mean and schismaticall party must depresse the Nobility, and understanding Commons, the land must waste it selfe, and forraigners or others must take the advantage of all ?

I dare say, I professe for myselfe, and the greatest part with me, have no aspect, but this singly, that we be not possesst as wast ground is, only by the title of occupancie, or that the next that gets into the saddle, ride us.

Let the Nation freely choose their Representatives, and they as freely sit without awe, or force of Souldiery, and what ever, in such an Assembly, is determined ; shall be by us freely and cheerfully submitted unto.

If this satisfie you, I am glad of it ; for you are my noble friend. I use it not as an artifice eyther to engage you, or make other Counties follow our example, which if they doe not,

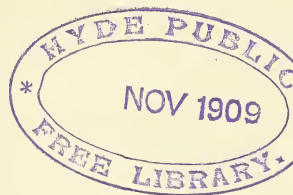
let their posterity judge of their action and ours ; for we are borne for our Countrey, and our Countrey, our Religion, and our lives are in danger ; and we will not be unconcerned.

But we are faithfull and peacefull in the land, and if they in authority will decline hostility, and agree of a means to admit the old members of both Houses, or to call a new free Parliament let him be, and he onely is truly a Traitor that resolves not his judgement, and obedience into their determinations.

Sir, Your humble servant,

Chester, August 2nd, 1659.

George Booth.



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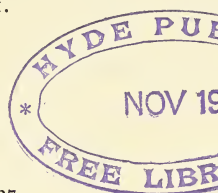
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